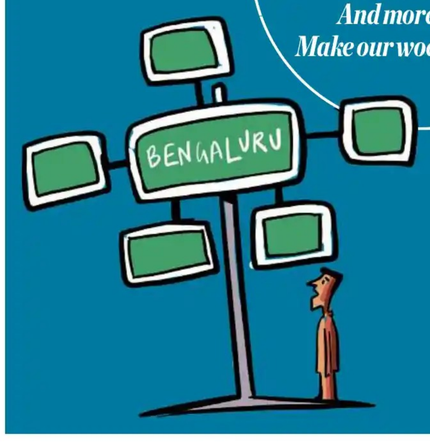
DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

WHACKY VERSE



Putin for softening trade imbalance with Delhi

Orders purchasing more agri products, medicines from India

P12

Destroyed 11-12 Pak planes: IAF chief on Op Sindoor

Terms Pakistan's claims of shooting down Indian jets as 'fanciful tales'

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Indian Air Force neutralised 11-12 Pakistan aircraft, including F-16 and JF-17 fighter jets, during Operation Sindoor, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said here on Friday, while dismissing Islamabad's claim of shooting down seven Indian aircraft as *"manohar kahaniyan"* (fanciful tales).

In his first media interaction post the Indo-Pakistan conflict in May, Air Chief Marshal Singh said the IAF raids destroyed four enemy radar sites, two command and control centres, two runways, three hangars, a large C-130J class aircraft and 4-5 fighter aircraft on ground.

Moreover, one large aircraft, which could either be an airborne early warning and control aircraft or a signal intelligence aircraft, and five Pakistani fighter jets that took off from Pakistan air bases were shot down, he said addressing the media ahead of the 93rd Air Force Day. One surface to air missile system was also destroyed.

Earlier, Air Chief Marshal Singh, while delivering a talk in Bengaluru in August, had revealed destroying six Pakistani aircraft during Operation Sindoor. That disclosure, however, didn't include the aircraft on the ground as he spoke about only those enemy jets that were in the air during the conflict.

The IAF chief, however, refused to speak about the Indian losses. "Why should I talk about it? Let them (Pakistan) talk about shooting down 15 of our aircraft and cater for 15 less in our inventory next time. I won't say anything about what happened, how much damage was done, how it happened. Let them find out," he said.

"Have you seen a single picture where something fell on any of our airbases, something hit us, a hangar was destroyed, or anything like that? We showed so many pictures of their places. However, they couldn't show us even a single picture. So their narrative is *'manohar kahaniyan'*. Let them be happy, after all, they also have to show something to their audience to save their reputation. That doesn't matter to me."

In response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan.

▸ IAF, Page 3B

Air chief on IAF raids...

Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh

- Destroyed 4 enemy radar sites, 2 command & control centres, 2 runways, 3 hangars, a large C-130J class aircraft and 4-5 fighter aircraft on ground
- 1 large aircraft and 5 Pakistani fighter jets in the air were shot down
- 1 SAM system destroyed

On 5th gen fighters...
- Scheduled to fly by 2028
- Supposed to be inducted by 2035

On LCA Mk-2 aircraft...
- Same class as Tejas LCA Mk-1A
- More weapons, bigger weapons, higher endurance

India flags PoK rights violations

India on Friday said Pakistan must be held accountable for its "horrific" human rights violations against innocent protesters in PoK. Several areas in PoK have witnessed widespread protests with people demanding basic rights, justice and an end to what they described as systemic oppression.
Details on Page 10

Tigress found dead in MM Hills; poisoning suspected

MYSURU, DHNS: The partial remains of a tigress were found near Pachchedoddi in the Hanur buffer zone of Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary in Chamarajanagar district on Thursday evening. Poisoning is suspected to be the cause of death and will be confirmed after lab reports are available.

Officials said they have clues about the suspect and all steps have been taken to nab him.

Forest department personnel on patrol found the tiger's head, shoulders and fore limbs buried in the soil on Thursday, while the rest of the carcass was missing. The tiger's claws and teeth were also found later. After combing the area, the forest personnel found the missing parts by evening. According to department sources, the tiger's claws, teeth and skin were intact.
Details on Page 3B

Karur stampede: Madras HC raps Vijay, forms SIT

CHENNAI, DHNS: Days after a deadly stampede claimed 41 lives at Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay's rally in Karur, the Madras High Court on Friday castigated the actor-turned-politician for "disappearing" from the rally scene and the Tamil Nadu government for failing to act against him. The court also constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the incident.

Justice N Senthilkumar questioned what kind of political party TVK was, noting that everyone concerned fled Karur after the deaths.

"...The party has not even expressed remorse, which shows the mental state of the leader," the judge observed. He ordered the formation of an SIT headed by senior IPS officer and IGP Asra Garg.
Details on Page 6

State poll panel to begin GBA voter list revision from Nov 1

To abide by SC order; will not wait for EC reply on SIR

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The State Election Commission (SEC) has decided to proceed with the preparation of electoral rolls in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area from November 1, irrespective of whether the Election Commission of India (ECI) postpones its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Karnataka or not.

While the Supreme Court has mandated the SEC to prepare the voter list for GBA from November 1 and submit the reservation list by November 30, the ECI is expected to soon conduct its SIR of the voter list in Karnataka.

If the two exercises clash, they will be hit as the booth level officers (BLOs) for both will be mostly the same.

On September 23, State Election Commissioner G S Sangreshi wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and asked him to postpone the SIR in Karnataka. However, he has not yet received any response.

The Congress government has authorised the SEC with preparation and revision of electoral rolls for local body polls, including GBA. Before this decision, the electoral rolls for local body polls and the Assembly/Lok Sabha elections were the same.

"The Supreme Court has directed us to prepare the voter list (for GBA) from November 1," Sangreshi told DH.
▸ EC, Page 3B

JD(S), BJP pact for all polls: Gowda

Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Friday said his party will remain in alliance with BJP for all upcoming elections, including those for the five municipal corporations under Greater Bengaluru Authority.
Details on Page 3A

They come to the rescue of trapped animals

A writer-filmmaker shines a light on people who look after creatures in the urban jungle

Habitats once shared by animals and birds are now claimed by corporate offices, gated societies, and malls. As a result, these creatures find themselves fighting for survival in unintentional traps—marooned in borewells, entangled in kite strings, stranded on electric cables, or hit while crossing roads.

Rushing to their aid are small rescue teams, responding to calls from both concerned citizens and those who simply want the animals 'removed' from their property.

The SATURDAY STORY

In today's *Saturday Story*, a writer and filmmaker follows two such teams in Bengaluru. They freed a kite trapped in a tree, its wings bound by string, and took in a street dog crawling with maggots.

Traffic poses a constant hurdle to their operations. And while some bystanders stop to help, others, driven by fear or ignorance, harm the animals even as rescuers are on the way. Yet these rescuers, coming from backgrounds as diverse as the army, medicine, and the arts, find this round-the-clock pursuit rewarding.

Full story, Page 15

Veteran journalist TJS George passes away

Eminent journalist, editor, and author Thayil Jacob Sony George, popularly known as TJS George, passed away at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Friday. He was 97. With his sharp wit and uncompromising voice, George left an indelible mark on Indian journalism in a career that spanned over six decades.
P 4

6 from K'taka drown in separate incidents

Three children, aged between 12 and 16, drowned while swimming in a lake in Chikkaballapur district on Friday. In another incident, three from Belagavi drowned in the Arabian Sea in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg after eight members of a family on vacation ventured into the sea. Four were missing.
P 4

Idol immersion: 25 drown in UP, MP

Durga idol immersion turned tragic in several places across India on Thursday, with 25 deaths reported from UP and MP alone. In a tragic incident, 13 people drowned in the Utangan river in Agra on Thursday. Meanwhile, 11 youths drowned in MP's Khandwa as their vehicle plunged into a lake.
P 6

MAKING WAVES

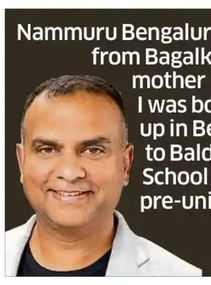
Bengalurean named CTO of US AI firm Anthropic

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

When Bengaluru-born Rahul Patil was announced as the new Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of US-based Anthropic, an AI safety and research company, the alumni group of PESIT suddenly came alive and discussions began about him.

Patil, who worked in fintech firm Stripe as CTO, took the new role in Anthropic, and he will lead engineering, spanning inference, products, infrastructure and security. Anthropic is valued at $183 billion after it raised $13 billion last month.

Patil completed his BE Computer Science from PESIT in 2002 and was one of the top 3 students of his class. Later, he pursued an MS in Computer Science from Arizona State University (2003-04); in 2013, he completed his MBA from the University of Washington.



Nammuru Bengaluru. My father is from Bagalkot and my mother is from Raichur. I was born and brought up in Bengaluru. I went to Baldwin Boys' High School and St Joseph's pre-university

- RAHUL PATIL
CTO, Anthropic

What makes his rise notable is that unlike other senior executives of top firms, he did not study at an IIT.

"I am excited to join a new mission and calling—Anthropic! AI possibilities seem endless, and it is going to be an extraordinary adventure of discoveries and effort to make these possibilities real. More importantly, it is going to require us to make a conscientious set of decisions every day to safely navigate this massive transformation and ensure that responsible AI wins," Patil posted on LinkedIn.

Responding to a query from *DH*, Patil said his parents hail from north Karnataka.
▸ Anthropic, Page 3B

Anthropic, a rising AI star

US AI startup Anthropic was created in early 2021 by former OpenAI staff. The company offers the popular AI assistant Claude, which competes with OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google Gemini among others. Valued at $183 billion, Anthropic is backed by Amazon.

GST Bachat Utsav
MORE SAVINGS FOR MY FAMILY WITH CHEAPER APPLIANCES
FESTIVE SEASON OF SAVINGS
1.5 TON AC IS CHEAPER BY NEARLY ₹2,800
42-INCH TV IS CHEAPER BY NEARLY ₹3,500
MONITOR, DISHWASHER AND POWER BANK ALSO GET CHEAPER
भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT
CBC 15502/13/0031/2526

THE BUMPY ROAD SAGA

A bad bumpy road near the busy Nayandahalli flyover, Mysuru Road, on September 21. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

A road with a deep pothole near FTI Circle, Outer Ring Road, on September 24. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

Motorists navigate the potholed Union Street at Shivajinagar on September 24. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Members of the Bharatinagar Residents' Association perform a 'puja' to potholes on September 27. DH PHOTO

When cash goes down the craters

Potholes are a problem that can never be fixed permanently. Here is why...

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Huge craters on a road in Sri Sai Layout, Vaddarapalya, Bengaluru. This picture was taken on Thursday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

A school bus met with an accident in Panathur while trying to avoid potholes. The 20 students travelling in the vehicle were shifted to another bus.

Just three months after the Uttarahalli main road was repaired with a fresh coat of tar, potholes began to reappear on the busy stretch, rendering the repairs a mere "tilling for billing" exercise. A similar situation is unfolding on Channasandra main road in Whitefield, where the freshly-laid tar has peeled off, lasting only a week.

For commuters, it's a vicious cycle: potholes often outlast the road's motorable condition in any particular year.

While most live with it, some amplify the issue on social media. And that's exactly what Rajesh Yabaji, co-founder of logistics firm BlackBuck, did when he suggested that the company might move out of Outer Ring Road's Bellandur area due to worsening infrastructure and traffic woes.

It was, however, only after the viral post, which attracted both national and international headlines, that the government sprang into action to address road issues, primarily focusing on filling potholes and asphalting roads.

While funding was not a major concern for Bengaluru, a lot of projects—worth over Rs 3,000 crore—were running behind deadlines for no good reason. This includes white-topping 143.68 km of roads, asphalting about 450 km, improving junctions, and more.

In the latest budget, the authorities have earmarked Rs 18 crore towards filling potholes on important corridors and another Rs 45 crore for filling potholes on ward roads.

Measures such as procuring cold-mix asphalt, manufacturing hot-mix asphalt, and deploying the automated pothole-filling machine, Jetpatcher, have been put in place. However, due to various administrative reasons, there was not much proactive effort to spot and fill the potholes until recently.

How much money is too much?

Bengaluru's tryst with potholes is not new. The city's roads develop potholes after every monsoon season, and the civic body struggles to fill them. From developing new mobile application to spot the potholes to deploying machines like Python to fill potholes, there is nothing that the city has not tried to fix the issue.

Money has also been never a problem. Ahead of the last three assembly elections, Bengaluru received a financial bonanza. During Siddaramaiah's first term, Rs 9,791 crore was released; during HD Kumaraswamy and BS Yediyurappa's terms, Rs 10,442 crore was allocated; and during Basavaraj Bommai's term, Rs 8,123 crore was released. Despite everything, the road conditions remain poor.

Highlighting the lack of accountability, former councillor NR Ramesh said that the now-dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) cleared bills to the tune of Rs 5,032 crore in the last 26 months, yet the roads continue to have potholes.

"These bills were mostly related to the development of 874 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads," he said, terming the entire road-repair exercise a "loot." "Even if one starts counting now, Bengaluru still has around 50,000 potholes," he added.

This is perhaps why Chief Minister Siddaramaiah rejected the request of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which had sought an additional Rs 1,100 crore to repair the 500 kms of arterial and sub-arterial roads that are not under the defect liability period (DLP). He reportedly directed the engineers to complete the existing projects first and fill up the potholes before seeking fresh grants.

Substandard materials

While there is a focus on the number of potholes filled and roads repaired, little attention has been given to ensuring that roads remain in good condition for an extended period. Earlier this week, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced that all five corporations had filled over 13,000 potholes. However, not everyone was satisfied with the quality of work. In places such as Babusapalya and Hennur Main Road, there are over 100 potholes, even though they were repaired just a month ago.

According to insiders, contractors often procure substandard tar, which is the root cause of potholes on Bengaluru's roads that appear every year. While reputed companies like Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. charge around Rs 50,000 per tonne of bitumen, some contractors in Bengaluru buy from third-party suppliers who import lower-quality products, often from Iran. This is commonly referred to as "Karwar bitumen."

"It's adulterated and at least Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per tonne cheaper than what's available from premium refineries," a source said. He added that the contractors choose to procure from these suppliers as they also offer a credit line of one to two years.

"This is an attractive offer, especially since the government delays payments," the source said, suggesting that it is the reason why asphalted roads do not last long.

Urbanist RK Mishra, who has been appointed as an independent director of Bangalore Smart Infrastructure Ltd. (B-SMILE), said urban roads require VG 30 or Polymer Modified Bitumen (PMB), which should be directly procured from reputable refineries.

"What we get is a third-rate product. At the time of work, there is a check on the temperature and quantity of tar used. While both materials may look the same, there is no check on the source and type of material procured," he said.

There is also a discrepancy in the bituminous emulsion used during resurfacing. Former councillor NR Ramesh noted that, in some cases, not just kerosene but even black water was used before laying the tar, which is bound to come off because there is no proper binding component.

Cutting corners

Although contractors often deny using substandard materials, they acknowledge a rise in corruption in Karnataka compared to other states, such as Tamil Nadu and Bihar. They also say that the delay in payments contributed to the poor quality of work, as bills for BBMP-funded works are kept pending for two years, and government-funded projects are kept pending for a year or so.

"A majority of the contractors who took up work three years ago have not taken on new projects since. This shows that many have lost money. There is corruption not just in securing works but also while clearing bills. There is also an increase in the 'percentage'," said KT Manjunath, president of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Contractors' Association.

Contractors argue that the government must provide a higher tender premium, currently just 1-5%. They also point out that the roads built by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) last longer, as the contractor is also expected to maintain them as per the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) and Built Own Operate Transfer (BOOT) model. In contrast, the maintenance period of Bengaluru roads is sometimes as short as one year.

What the future holds

Most experts agree that Bengaluru's future will likely remain plagued by potholes unless systematic changes are made. "There is no one-point solution," said a civil engineering expert who preferred anonymity.

"First, many roads in the city's outskirts need complete redoing, including foundation work, not just resurfacing. Second, contract conditions — especially for Metro and white-topping projects — require ensuring motorable stretches where work is not yet completed, but that does not happen," he said, adding that arterial roads must be given grants for periodic maintenance.

Activists believe that a few MLAs in Bengaluru have not taken responsibility for ensuring their constituency is liveable and that the roads are free from potholes.

"About 90% of MLAs have gotten re-elected for a quarter of a century, yet they don't seem to have any accountability for infrastructure like roads. If the MLAs do not have a vision to develop the city, who else must take the blame?" asked an activist, reminding that MLAs have had complete control over funds of not just the state government but also of the civic body governing Bengaluru city in the absence of an elected body for the last five years.

Feedback:
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

METRO

BMRCL chief inspects fifth train set

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dr J Ravishankar, the managing director of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), and other top officials inspected the fifth train set, which arrived at the Hebbagodi depot recently.

Ravishankar also had deliberations with other officials on inducting the train set for commercial operations.

The train will be inducted into service after mandatory testing and service trials, which will improve the frequency of operations to around 15 minutes.

Three coaches of the Yellow Line train at the Hebbagodi depot. DH FILE

Survey reveals gaps in city's healthcare service for the elderly; highlights poor accessibility

Complex registration, odd operating hours are stumbling blocks

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite the city's growing population, healthcare facilities for senior citizens remain inadequate, with many lacking essential services and staff, a survey by Akhila Karnataka Vayovruddara Okkuta (AIKYATA) has revealed.

The survey, covering 13 public health facilities (PHCs), found poor physical accessibility, cumbersome registration processes, and illogical operating hours as major stumbling blocks for elderly persons, especially those from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and retired informal workers.

The study found Namma Clinics presented a very different picture. Some were hard to locate, missing on Google Maps, or situated on the first floor with steep, unusable ramps that blocked access for wheelchair users and the elderly.

"When we go to the Namma clinic, we do get medicines for BP and sugar, etc, but this supply runs out in 15 days. No amount of requesting the clinic staff is of any use.

"We ask them to give us medicines for a whole month, but they do not give it to us. So, we end up taking the medicine erratically. Sometimes, we take it and sometimes we do not," said a patient.

The report also noted "crowding of Namma Clinic facilities in some areas and absolutely no facilities in other areas".

The push for digitalisation has worsened delays in registration. The introduction of QR code-based registration and the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number has led to long waits.

AIKYATA members observed patients waiting up to 90 minutes just to get a token. The system requires a smartphone, internet connectivity, and a multi-step login with OTPs, making it especially challenging for senior citizens.

The report further stated that despite holding BPL cards, some seniors were allegedly asked to pay bribes ranging from Rs 250 to Rs 1,500 for essential age and disability certificates needed to avail the state pension of Rs 1,200 a month.

Key findings

- Healthcare providers lack specialised training to manage complex geriatric issues like dementia, Parkinson's, and cardiac problems.
- Screening, risk assessment, and physiotherapy remain unavailable for many seniors, especially those who are bedridden and require home care.
- Public spaces remain unsafe, and essential assistive devices such as walkers, spectacles, and hearing aids are not reliably distributed.

Recommendations

- Provide compulsory, specialised geriatric training to healthcare staff.
- Ensure PHCs and Namma Clinics offer comprehensive screening, risk management, and home-based care for seniors with restricted mobility.
- Start evening OPDs (4 pm–9 pm) at all public health facilities and guarantee access to a facility within half-a-kilometre radius.
- Upgrade emergency infrastructure and create a functional referral system.
- Collaborate across departments to resolve issues like nutrition and pensions and establish a reliable health database for senior citizens.

Kidnapping cases high, chargesheeting low in city: NCRB

ASRA MAVAD
ENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru recorded 1,203 kidnapping and abduction cases in 2023, but registered a chargesheeting rate of only 3.8%, the lowest among metropolitan cities, a report from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows.

Karnataka as a whole reported a kidnapping and abduction rate of 5.5% and a chargesheeting rate of 6.9% — among the lowest in the country, second only to Sikkim at 2.4%.

South Indian states

By contrast, South Indian states recorded much higher chargesheeting rates: Tamil Nadu 39.7%, Telangana 33.7%, Andhra Pradesh 69.6%, and Kerala 93.5%.

Despite Bengaluru recording a 13.6% rate of abduction and kidnapping, its chargesheeting rate stood at only 3.8%. Mumbai registered 7.4%, while Delhi, Hyderabad, and Kolkata recorded 6.6%, 17.4%, and 100%, respectively.

Of the 1,203 cases in Bengaluru, 1,139 victims were children. This included 23 below six years; 17 aged between 6 and 12; 487 aged between 12 and 16; and 558 between 16 and 18 years.

Among these victims, 771 were female and 368 were male.

The report said of the remaining 64 adult victims, 49 were male and 15 female.

No kidnapping or abduction cases involving transgender adults were reported in 2023.

It added that 1,112 victims of kidnapping and abduction had been recovered, while 1,310 victims remained missing — 854 of them female.

PAUSE & SMILE

Commuters at Corporation Circle are greeted by cheerful red and green smileys at signals, part of Bengaluru's smart traffic upgrade project.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Police draw up plan to ease congestion along 17-km ORR

Identify 18 chokepoints; focus on Namma metro works

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru city police have identified 18 chokepoints along the 17-km Outer Ring Road (ORR) and drawn up measures to reduce traffic congestion by 20%.

With several companies resuming full-time office work in September and more set to follow in October, the existing snarls on the ORR are expected to worsen.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told *DH* that a major cause of traffic pile-ups was vehicles simultaneously entering and exiting the main road and service roads.

"A major problem we noticed along the ORR was that the traffic would choke, especially at points where vehicles would try to enter or exit the main road into the service road. This problem remains consistent throughout the stretch. We have identified 18 such major chokepoints and have received the approval to fix them," he said.

Elaborating, Singh said engineers would stagger the entry and exit points at these identified locations to ease movement, particularly during peak hours. Currently, commuters spend about 15 minutes waiting to get onto the main road in the peak evening hour.

He added that the newly established Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) was enabling real-time coordination among agencies.

The Outer Ring Road is notorious for chock-a-block traffic.
FILE PHOTO

"With the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) being more widely spread, it could get confusing to figure out who was in charge of what. But now, there are better demarcations, and it is helping our officers. We now also have a WhatsApp group with officials from agencies like the GBA and BMRCL, and also the chief secretary, where we discuss and approve day-to-day requirements in real time. We do not have to wait for formal approvals from each agency," he said.

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has been directed to clear debris from the Blue Line construction as and when sections are completed. Singh said barricades have already been pulled back in stretches where metro pillars are in place, creating space to streamline traffic.

SEEMANT KUMAR SINGH
Bengaluru City Police Commissioner

"We now have a WhatsApp group with officials from agencies like the GBA and BMRCL, and also the chief secretary, where we discuss and approve day-to-day requirements in real time. We do not have to wait for formal approvals from each agency.

Corporate cooperation

He also urged companies along the ORR to adopt staggered work timings, encourage public transport and promote carpooling.

"Tech parks can also deploy feeder buses from within the campus towards bus stops. This will also be helpful when the metro is ready. My team has been visiting these tech parks to create awareness about the same," Singh said.

Major critical care gap: Govt hospitals lack intensivists

Doctors are disappointed with pay offer; nursing staff also fall short

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Prominent government hospitals in Bengaluru are grappling with a severe shortage of intensivists and critical care specialists, raising concerns over the quality of emergency treatment.

Victoria Hospital, associated with the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), reportedly has only two intensivists for more than 80 ICU beds. Anaesthetists currently manage intensive care, but they are not fully trained in critical care unless they hold a fellowship.

While anaesthetists can stabilise patients, they also have to participate in surgeries, straining resources further.

Similar shortages exist at Lady Bowring Hospital, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute, and KC General Hospital.

"People seeking treatment at government hospitals are poor and that is being taken advantage of," a public health expert told *DH*.

According to sources, despite requests from Victoria Hospital, the government has fallen behind in recruiting the necessary staff for ICUs. A few doctors who wanted to join were disappointed with the contract and compensation offered.

Nursing staff are also overstretched, working at a 1:4 ratio. The National Accreditation Board of Hospitals recommends one nurse for every ventilator bed and one for every two non-ventilator beds.

'No shortage'

Principal Secretary of Medical Education Mohammad Moushin denied any shortage. He said if hospitals report shortages, the government will take up recruitment.

Women attacked; one arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Girinagar police have arrested a suspect who, along with an accomplice, attacked two women with machetes and snatched their gold chains at Eshwari Nagar.

A senior officer said the suspect's name has been withheld to avoid jeopardising the probe and the arrest of his accomplice. The suspects are known offenders.

CCTV footage of the incident later went viral.

Woman accuses male acquaintance of harassment, blackmail

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman has alleged that a man has been threatening and blackmailing her to pay him Rs 3 lakh, following which the Nandini Layout police have booked a case.

The 54-year-old woman from Laggere has stated in the FIR that the suspect Dhananjay, with whom she has been acquainted, has threatened to release screenshots of messages from her husband to other women if she failed to pay the money.

She also said Dhananjay sent her messages on September 12, but deleted them later. He also waylaid her on the same day and threatened her with dire consequences.

The Nandini Layout police are investigating the case under sections 126(2) (wrongful restraint), 351(2) (criminal intimidation), and 352 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Further probe is on.

Husband films woman privately, forces sex with clients; booked

BENGALURU, DHNS: A man has been booked by the Puttenahalli police for allegedly filming his wife's private moments and for forcing her to have sex with others.

The complaint by the 35-year-old JP Nagar woman, filed on September 30, stated that her husband Syed Inam Ul-Haq installed a hidden camera in the bedroom at their house in Vinayak Nagar and recorded her without consent.

The woman said she married Syed on December 15, 2024, during which her family gave him a motorcycle and 240 grams of gold ornaments.

Two days after the wedding, Syed allegedly told her that he was already married and had relationships with 19 women.

She further said that without her consent, he recorded videos of her on his mobile phone and shared them with acquaintances abroad.

The woman alleged Syed forced her to have sexual relationships with some of his foreign clients, threatening to post the private content on social media if she refused.

She also named Ameen Baig, Syed Waseem Bokhari and Hina Kausar, who are related to her husband, in her complaint.

She said Bokhari behaved inappropriately with her during a family function, and that the four later forced her to sell her gold ornaments to buy a flat. When she refused, they allegedly assaulted her.

The police have booked the accused under relevant BNS sections, including voyeurism, and provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act. An investigation is underway, officials said.

Mysore Association to celebrate centenary on Sunday

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Mysore Association will mark its centenary on Sunday at 10 am at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Auditorium, Race Course Road.

The chief guests are playwright-director Prakash Belawadi and IM Vitthalamurthy, former chairman of the Department of Kannada and Culture.

Founded in 1926 by Mysoreans seeking a cultural anchor in a new city, the association has, for a hundred years, been a guardian of Kannada literature, theatre, music and heritage in Mumbai.

Inaugurated by Prof NS Subba Rao, it grew into a community hub with the construction of Vanivilas Hall at Matunga in 1934. Built entirely through member contributions and volunteer effort, the hall became a stage for art, ideas and identity, and a second home for Mysoreans and Kannadigas.

Man dies 10 days after assault; accused, his parents arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cottonpet police have arrested a 28-year-old man for murder and his parents for attempting to destroy evidence over a railway housekeeper's death.

The victim, Vijay alias Kutti, a railway housekeeper, was allegedly attacked with an iron spanner around midnight on September 14 following a dispute near Mini Bhakshi Garden in Cottonpet.

The police said that the incident stemmed from old enmity between the victim's brother and the main accused, Shiva, 28. Both groups, including Vijay, were allegedly under the influence of alcohol when a quarrel broke out.

When Vijay intervened, the altercation escalated.

Based on a complaint lodged by Vijay's wife on September 15, the police registered a case. The complaint stated that Shiva assaulted her husband with a deadly weapon with the "intention of killing him".

Shiva was secured the same day. During interrogation, the police found he had attacked Vijay multiple times on the head with an iron spanner. He was produced before the court on September 16 and remanded to judicial custody.

Twist in the tale

The probe later revealed that Shiva's parents, Elumalai and Annapurnamma, took Vijay to a hospital immediately after the attack. They allegedly gave false information, claiming Vijay was drunk and had "fallen on the road".

"The parents spun a whole different story to save their son from getting caught by the police," an official said, adding that they gave first aid and left Vijay at his home.

The police alleged this was a deliberate attempt to destroy evidence. Vijay's wife subsequently admitted him as an outpatient to Victoria Hospital.

Despite treatment, he succumbed to injuries on September 25.

After receiving the death memo, the police upgraded the case to murder and arrested Elumalai and Annapurnamma on charges of destroying evidence and protecting the main accused.

They were produced before the court on September 26 and remanded to judicial custody.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Graduation Ceremony: Indian Academy Degree College; G Satheesh Reddy, Niranjan Vanalli, T Somashekhar to attend; The School of Roya; 10 am.

Inauguration of Gandhi Cartoon Exhibition: Vuday P Krishna; Indian Institute of Cartoonists; 10 am.

CULTURAL

Dhwani: BKF Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur Hindustani Music Festival; 'Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur Memorial' Award; N Rajam; Sudhakar Rao, VS Reddy to attend; Bengaluru Gayana Samaja; 5 pm.

Shatabdi Nada Naivedya: CR Mukunda, BK Sumitra, Velu, Anooru Ananta Krishna Sharma, Bheemsha Arya, Gubbiguru Ramesh to attend; BMS Engineering College; 5 pm.

25th Year of Pravachana Vaahini: Bharatanatyam: Archana MC; Raghigudda Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Bhakta Mandali Trust; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	3.2 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	69%
Sunset (Oct 4)	6:09 pm
Sunrise (Oct 5)	6:09 am
Moonrise	2:38 pm
Moonset	1:25 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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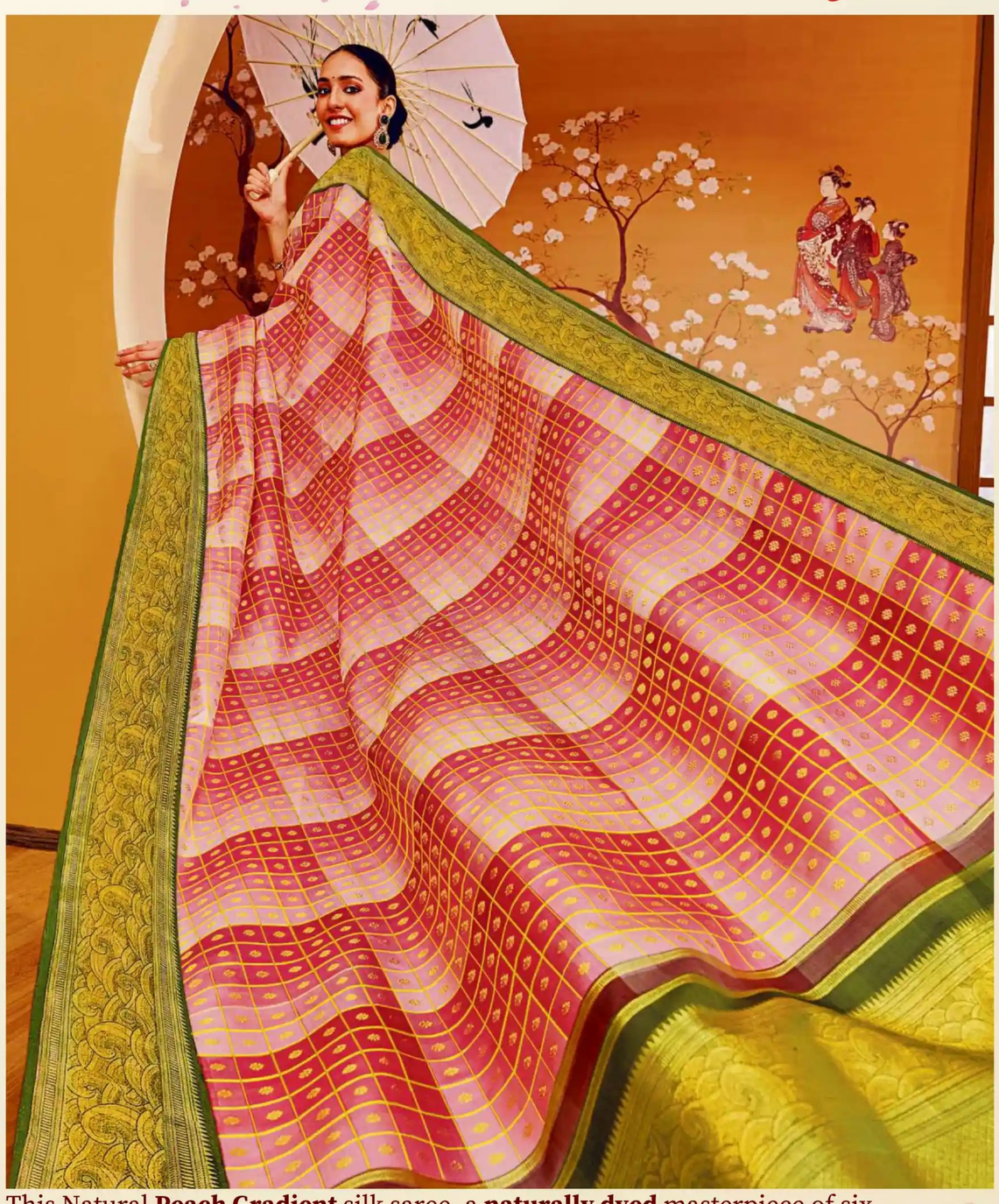

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Take complete rest, Congress tells Mallikarjun Kharge

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress has asked its president Mallikarjun Kharge to take "complete rest" for a few days following a pacemaker implantation procedure he underwent, party general secretary K C Venugopal said on Friday. Venugopal met Kharge, 83, at his Sadashivanagar residence. Asked about CM Siddaramaiah completing a full term, Venugopal said: "Congress is capable enough to decide what should happen in our party."

SAD DEMISE

NITHYANAND R. KHODAY

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the sad demise of ***Mr. Nithyanand R. Khoday*** *on 3rd October 2025. Cremation will be held on 4th October 2025, afternoon, at Amruthmahal Estate, off Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru.*

Family, Board and Staff of Khoday Group

THE HOUSE OF KHODAYS

Ph: 9844046352 khodaygroup@gmail.com

JD(S) and BJP will fight all polls together: Gowda

My bond with PM Modi is strong, says party patriarch

BENGALURU, DHNS

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda on Friday declared that his party would fight all future elections, including the polls to the five municipalities of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), in alliance with the BJP.

"We will fight all future elections, from panchayat to Assembly, together," Gowda informed journalists in Bengaluru.

Forged ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the future of the JD(S)-BJP alliance has been the subject of some speculation. Putting doubts about the future of the alliance to rest, Gowda said, "My relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will never change. Our bond is strong. I have never spoken lightly of Modi once in the past 10 years. The JD(S) and BJP will fight all elections together."

The former PM exuded confidence of the JD(S) putting up a strong show in the GBA elections, predicting that the party would mop up at least 50 seats. "We will strengthen the party in Bengaluru. To that end, we are organising the JD(S) Women's Convention on October 12, where 50,000 to 60,000 women are expected to participate. Our party's strength will be on display during elections," said Gowda.

'HDK will tour the state'

In his first public statement about Union Minister and his son H D Kumaraswamy's health, Gowda said, "He (Kumaraswamy) is fine. He will tour the state this month. Doctors have declared that he is fit to travel. I will also be active and will be involved in the party's activities."

'Govt has no funds'

The flagship guarantee schemes implemented by the Congress government in Karnataka had left the state with insufficient funds for the flood-hit districts of Kalyana Karnataka, remarked Gowda.

"The state government has no funds to disburse to the flood-hit districts of North Karnataka. We must not politicise the floods. The government must attend to the problem on priority. But I hear even MLAs remarking about there being no money in the treasury. The guarantee schemes have hurt the state's finances," said the former PM.

Gowda said that he would travel by road to meet those who had borne the brunt of the floods in North Karnataka.

"I will not conduct an aerial survey. I will visit the affected places, and prepare a comprehensive report, which will be submitted to Prime Minister Modi along with a request for a special package," he added.

Land acquisition: 'Award must be remitted without delay even if it's under dispute'

HC directs SLAO to pay compensation to landlosers with interest

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka high court has said that under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act 2013, even if the quantum of compensation is under dispute, it is the duty of the Special Land Acquisition Officer (SLAO) or Collector (deputy commissioner) to remit the amount into the bank account of the land loser without delay.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said this while directing the authorities to make payment of the compensation as awarded under section 30 of the RFCTLARR Act.

The petitioners Lokanna, Bharati and Sanket, all residents of Bagalkot taluk, contended that the compensation for their acquired land and property had not been deposited. Their lands at Gaddankeri area were acquired for the Upper Krishna project. The preliminary notification was issued in January 2021 and the final notification in September 2023. On October 5, 2024, a general award was passed instructing land losers to submit their papers for compensation payment. According to the petitioners, payments were not made despite complying with the instructions.

The petitioners submitted that once the general award was issued, the Collector or SLAO obligated to deposit the compensation. On the other hand, the authorities argued that the petitioners have alternative efficacious remedy of filing execution proceedings and requested the court to direct them to approach the execution court.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted that once an award under Section 30 of the RFCTLARR Act is passed, the Collector must, as promptly as possible and preferably within 30 days, deposit the awarded amount into the land loser's bank account unless there is a dispute regarding the property's title. The court further said that the land loser could protest the compensation, within reasonable time, after the amount is deposited. If a protest was made, proceedings under sub-Section 1 of Section 64 could be initiated. If no protest was made within a reasonable time, it would be assumed that the land loser accepted the compensation amount awarded under Section 30, the court said.

"It is clear that there is a duty on the part of the Collector to tender payment of compensation awarded by remitting the same into the bank account of the land loser. There would therefore be no requirement to initiate any execution proceedings," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, while directing the SLAO, Bagalkot Town Development Authority, to make the compensation payment to the petitioners, along with applicable interest.

Cong MLA Yasir Pathan, four others booked for criminal trespass

HAVERI, DHNS: The Hangal police have booked Shiggaon Congress MLA Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan and four others on charges of criminal trespass following the direction by a local court.

Fakeergouda Eranagouda Patil, a lawyer, had lodged a private complaint in the local court against Yasir Pathan, Maqbool Pathan, Survey department officer Y K Jagadish, ADLR Satyanarayanappa and taluk surveyor Manjunath Mulimani.

The complainant had alleged that the aforementioned persons, on June 5, 2025, gained a wrongful entry into his farm in the guise of measuring and fixing the boundaries of the adjacent 4 acres and 32 guntas land, that was bought by Pathan brothers in May 2017, at Halekote hobli in Hangal taluk, and chopped off mango trees and took them away.

The police have registered an FIR against Pathan and four others under BNS sections 3(5), 303 (1), 329 (3) and 324 (4).

Pathan was not available for comments on the case booked against him.

Yallalinga death case: All nine accused acquitted

KOPPAL, DHNS: The district and sessions court here acquitted all nine accused in the case pertaining to mysterious death of student Yallalinga on Friday. The incident had led to the resignation of Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi a decade ago.

Yallalinga of Kanakapura village in Kanakagiri taluk had spoken out about corruption in his village. On January 11, 2015, his dead body was found near the Koppal railway station. Within a few days, a case was registered at the city police station, treating it as a murder. An FIR was filed against nine people in this case, including Tangadagi's close aide Hanumesh Nayak, which made it major political news. "The murder charges against the nine people were due to a political conspiracy. The court has stated that these charges are baseless," advocate Gangadhar told the media.

सी एसआईआर - चौथा प्रतिमान संस्थान
CSIR-Fourth Paradigm Institute
न ए एल बेलूर कैंपस, विंड टनल रोड, केम्पापुरा / NAL Belur Campus, Wind Tunnel Road, Kempapura, बेंगलूरु / Bengaluru-560037

विज्ञापन सं./ Advt. No.02/2025

कनिष्ठ सचिवालय सहायक (जे एस ए) पदों के लिए टाइपिंग टेस्ट के लिए एडमिट कार्ड / Admit Card for Typing Test for the posts of Junior Secretariat Assistant (JSA)

सी एसआईआर-4पीआई वेबसाइट (www.csir4pi.res.in) से **दिनांक 30.09.2025 से 06.10.2025 (शाम 5 बजे) तक** तक दिए गए लिंक से एडमिट कार्ड डाउनलोड करें, अर्थात, https://khoj.nal.res.in.

Download the admit card from CSIR-4PI website (www.csir4pi.res.in) from 30.09.2025 to 06.10.2025 (05:00 PM) from the given link, i.e., https://khoj.nal.res.in.

प्रवेश पत्र डाउनलोड करने में किसी भी कठिनाई के मामले में, उम्मीदवारों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे स्क्रीनशॉट एवं विस्तृत कारणों के साथ अपने अनुरोध ई-मेल recruit.4pi@csir.res.in पर 06.10.2025 को शाम 05:00 बजे तक या उससे पहले भेजें।

In case of any difficulty in downloading the admit cards, candidates are advised to submit their requests with detailed reasons along with screenshots to the e-mail **recruit.4pi@csir.res.in** on or before **06.10.2025 by 05:00 P.M.**

Sd/-
प्रशासन नियंत्रक /Controller of Administration

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Upper Tunga Project Division, Shimoga
Ph : 08182-254832 Fax : 08182-254832
E-mail : eeutpsmg@gmail.com

Short Term PercentageTender Notification (Through KPP Portal only)

1)No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2024-25/T.N. No-20 Dated: 30.09.2025

On Behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Under signed invites tender Through Kpp-portal system from Eligible contractors for one (1) work coming Under Head of Account 4701 Tunga LIS

(1) Apprx. Amount put to tender as per estimation is Rs 252.44 lakhs (Excluding GST). (2) Last date for questions/clarifications regarding the tender : **09.10.2025 up to 17.30 hrs.** (3) Date for Submission of filled tenders from : **30.09.2025 to 14.10.2025 up to 17.29 hrs (during office hours)**

Further details on date of opening the Tender/detail of work E.M.D. Amount/Terms and Conditions of the tender/Class of Contractor, Etc, can be obtained in the Tender Notification or from the office of the Under signed during office hours or in website **Https:\\kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** for further details the office of the Undersigned can be contacted during office hours on phone No 08182-254832 Information can be obtained through **https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL,U.T.P., Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No.01-10 zenkar/2025-26

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprises)
O/o The Executive Engineer, CNNL., No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru District - 570020
Ph.0821-2515598 Email: eevccdn2@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

No.10/2025-26, Dated: 30.09.2025

Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Bengaluru from Eligible Registered Contractors for 01 Number of Re-modelling of canal works amounting 103.00 Crores to take up these works on Item Rate Contract basis. The last date for Tender quarries/clarification is Date:14-10-2025 till 5.0pm. Last date for online submission of tender with EMD is **Date:16-10-2025 till 5.30 p.m.** Date of opening of Technical bid is **date:18-10-2025 at 11.30 a.m.** and Date of opening of Financial bid is d**ate: 27-10-2025 at 11.30 a.m** For further details, contact the above said during office hours and through KPP-Portal by logging in **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL., No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/60/2025-26/975 Date: 03.10.2025

PUBLICATION

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

SRI VAISHNODEVI FARRMONT ESTATE LLP represented by its Partner Sri Vimal Jain S/o Manohar Lal Jain and R.G.Manjula have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No.12/20 extent of 0Acre-22Guntas, Sy.No.12/21 extent of 0Acre-13Guntas, Sy.No.12/22 extent of 0Acre-13Guntas, Sy.No.12/23 extent of 0Acre-25Guntas, Sy.No.12/24 extent of 0Acre-03Guntas, Sy.No.12/25 extent of 0Acre-32½Guntas, Sy.No.13/1 extent of 0Acre-24Guntas, Sy.No.13/2 extent of 0Acre-28Guntas (Including 0Acre-03Guntas 'A' Kharab), Sy.No.13/3 extent of 0Acre-17Guntas, Sy.No.13/4 extent of 0Acre-17Guntas, Sy.No.13/5 extent of 0Acre-16Guntas, Sy.No.13/6 extent of 0Acre-09Guntas, Sy.No.14/2 extent of 0Acre-32Guntas, Sy.No.14/4 extent of 0Acre-10Guntas totally measuring 06Acre-21½Guntas of Heggadagere Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to General Public.
2. At the time of carving and designing the Layout, there will be job opportunities to labourers.
3. If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4. If this development of layout takes place, good road, Civic amenities sites and UGD, Electrification & parks etc., will be available for General Public.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3072/MAA/25-26

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation & G.W.D. Division, Tumkur.
Phone : 0816 - 2281105, E-mail : eemitmk@gmail.com

Ref. No. : 11/2025-26 KW-3 (Two Cover System) KPP Portal
Date : 26-09-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of State of Karnataka, as per K.T.P.P act with latest amendments, Item wise KPPP Portal Tenders are invited for the works mentioned under H/A: 4702-SCP & 4702-A &P Pradhana Works from the eligible contractors of suitable category registered under KPWD. Tender publishing details are as given below.

1) Tender will be published through K.P.P. Portal on Date : 29-09-2025 at 16.00 Hours. 2) Last Date of Queries on Date : 06-10-2025 at 11.30 Hours. 3) Last Date for Receipt of Completed Tenders through K.P.P. Portal may be Uploaded before 17.00 Hours on Date : 10-10-2025. 4) Technical Bid will be Opened on Date : 13-10-2025 at 17.05 Hours. 5) Financial Bid will be Opened on Date : 14-10-2025 at 17.10 Hours.

For further details, visit KPP Portal **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or from the Office undersigned, on working days. If the Office happens to be closed on dates above as specified, the next working day at the same time and venue will be considered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D Division, Tumkur.

DIPR/Ramanagar/24/Manipal/2025-26

REPLACEMENT OF OLD VERSION IPS AND DATALOGGER AT STATIONS

E-Tender No. SNT-24-LMG-2025-26; Dated: 25-09-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Name of work & its Location:** Replacement of old version IPS at 08 nos of stations and Datalogger at 02 Nos of stations of Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹1,64,48,198.52; **Bid Security:** ₹2,32,300.00; E-tender will be **Closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 17-10-2025 and **Opened** at 15:30 hrs. on 17-10-2025. For details visit: **www.ireps.gov.in**

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.Y-E-29-2025-26-50 Dated: 24-09-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
OHE modification for provision of shunting neck of 750m towards Kadur end by extending the existing siding on Road-4 at Birur Yard.	Rs. 1,35,88,768.75

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 16-10-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/514/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 TR / Mysuru

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No. 15-02/2025-Restg.
Government of India,
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Applications are invited from eligible and interested Indian nationals for the post of Chairperson in the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

TDSAT is an appellate Tribunal established under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to hear various appeals under the said Act. In addition to Telecom matters, the Tribunal also exercises jurisdiction over Broadcasting, IT, Airport tariff and the Aadhaar matters under the respective Acts. The Headquarter of TDSAT is situated in New Delhi.

Vacancy for the post of Chairperson, TDSAT will arise on 14th March, 2026. The Qualification and other eligibility conditions for the post and the pro-forma of application are available on the website of the Department of Telecommunications, Department of Personnel & Training and TDSAT i.e. **https://dot.gov.in. https://dopt.gov.in/** and **https://tdsat.gov.in** respectively. The application in prescribed pro-forma can be sent up to last date of **17th November, 2025 till 05:30 P.M.**

Sd/-
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

CBC 06201/11/0004/2526

SETTING UP OF TELEMETRY & AMR SYSTEM

E-Tender Notice No. EL-25-26-TRD-OA-01 Dated: 25-09-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** Setting up of telemetry & AMR system as per STU defined system architecture for LTOA at 15 nos. TSSs for availing traction power under Open Access mode in the state of Assam. **Tender Value:** ₹5,29,47,774/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹4,14,700/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 15.00** hrs. on **17-10-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Voter list: State poll panel not...

EC, from Page 1

"And we need to provide an update by November 3. So, we have to proceed even if we don't get a response (from ECI). Unlike us, the ECI doesn't have such a mandate to conduct the SIR immediately," he added.

Sangreshi pointed out that the Supreme Court's order was binding on the state government to provide manpower to the SEC to conduct the roll revision.

"If they (state government) don't give manpower, we will approach the Supreme Court," Sangreshi said.

"If some bureaucrats cite the central exercise as an excuse to avoid this, we will write about it to the Supreme Court. Officers who fail to comply with the judgment of the Supreme Court will have to face contempt proceedings. They cannot escape," he added.

Sangreshi explained that there are around 9,000 booths, which will need the same number of BLOs. However, he felt the SEC would greatly benefit if the state government appointed twice the number of BLOs (18,000).

Tigress carcass found in Hanur

Big cat's claws, teeth and skin intact; Khandre orders probe

HANUR (CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS

The carcass of a tigress reportedly killed and mutilated into three pieces was found near Pachchedoddi village in the Hanur buffer zone of Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, Chamarajanagar district, on Thursday evening.

It can be recalled that carcasses of a tigress and its four cubs that were poisoned to death were found in the same sanctuary in June 2025.

Now, with the finding of the severed carcass of another female tiger there are strong suspicions of a deliberate killing.

The Forest department personnel were on patrol on Thursday, when they found the tiger's head, shoulders and front limbs buried in the soil, while the remaining parts were missing. The Forest department personnel started combing to find the missing parts of the tiger and found them by evening.

According to department sources, the tiger's claws, teeth and skin were intact. It is suspected that the tiger might have been killed for revenge.

The Forest officials have filed a poaching case and have initiated a probe to trace the accused with the help of a dog squad and fingerprint experts, said M M Hills Deputy Conservator of Forests Bhaskar.

Minister orders probe

Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre has expressed grief over the killing of another tiger in Hanur, under MM Hills limits, and has ordered an investigation by a team, led by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Smitha Bijoor.

He has directed the team to make a personal visit to the spot. Khandre has directed to take action in order to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the area by paying attention to poaching cases registered over the last three years.

A report should be submitted within eight days, along with recommendation for appropriate action against the officials, if found guilty of negligence, he added.

This incident confirms poaching of wildlife in the MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. The government has taken this seriously. Strict action will be taken to prevent repeat of such incidents, the minister said.

Postmortem report

According to the postmortem report, the tigress is said to be around 12-year-old. As its canines were weak, it is suspected to have survived by killing and eating livestock. There were no bullet injuries on the tiger's body. All the organs were intact. Poisoning to death is suspected and will be ascertained after the lab reports are available. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau officials will visit the spot on Saturday.

There are clues of the accused. The exact reason for killing the tiger will be known after the arrest, forest department officials said.

CURTAINS DOWN

The idol of the Goddess Sharada was taken out in a grand procession from the Sri Venkataramana Temple to Mahamaya temple pond for immersion in Mangaluru, on Friday evening, drawing curtains on the four-day 102nd Sharada Mahotsava. DH PHOTO/FAKRUDDIN H

Chaos in Madikeri Dasara, cops injured

▸ **MADIKERI, DHNS:** Tension prevailed during Madikeri Dasara celebration after miscreants created confusion and chaos during the prize distribution ceremony of the Dashamantapa competition in the town on Friday morning.

A few people who failed to get the prize stormed the stage at Gandhi Maidan shouting slogans when the results of the mantapa competition, organised as part of Dasara Shobhayatre, were announced and ransacked the furniture. Police resorted to mild lathicharge to bring the situation under control during which miscreants assaulted DySP Sooraj and Head Constable Uday, leaving both injured. They were immediately rushed to the hospital.

The Shobhayatre which began on Thursday night, had continued till Friday morning after which the prize distribution ceremony was held. Kodagu SP K Ramarajan said, "DySP Sooraj has suffered serious injuries on head and leg. The police have already arrested Yakshith, who had assaulted the DySP. Cases will be booked against all those who created ruckus."

Destroyed 11-12 Pak aircraft during Op Sindoor, says IAF Chief

IAF, from Page 1

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended on May 10, with both sides agreeing to maintain a ceasefire.

On futuristic home-grown fighters, the IAF chief said the fifth-generation advanced medium combat aircraft was scheduled to fly by 2028 and supposed to be inducted by 2035. "It's a tough task but it's possible. The AMCA technology is fairly clear in our mind as to what we want and what is required. We should be able to meet the timeline."

Asked about the proposed LCA Mk-2 aircraft, Air Chief Marshal Singh said it would be in the same class as Tejas LCA Mk-1A but with more weapons, bigger weapons and higher endurance. The second lot of LCA Mk-1A can be converted into LCA Mk-2, but a call would be taken later.

On the much-awaited delivery of fully weaponised Tejas LCA Mk-1A, he said the good news was that the engine flow had started, but some more tests were to be done. "As soon as they certify the aircraft, we are ready. Hungry mouths are ready, waiting for the food."

The Tejas LCA Mk-1A manufacturer HAL, B'luru, blamed US major General Electric's failure to supply the F-404 engines in time as the principal reason for the delay in delivering the home-grown combat jets. The Indian firm has now received four engines and readied the first two aircraft which will be delivered after successful firing of the weapons.

Bengaluru boy named CTO...

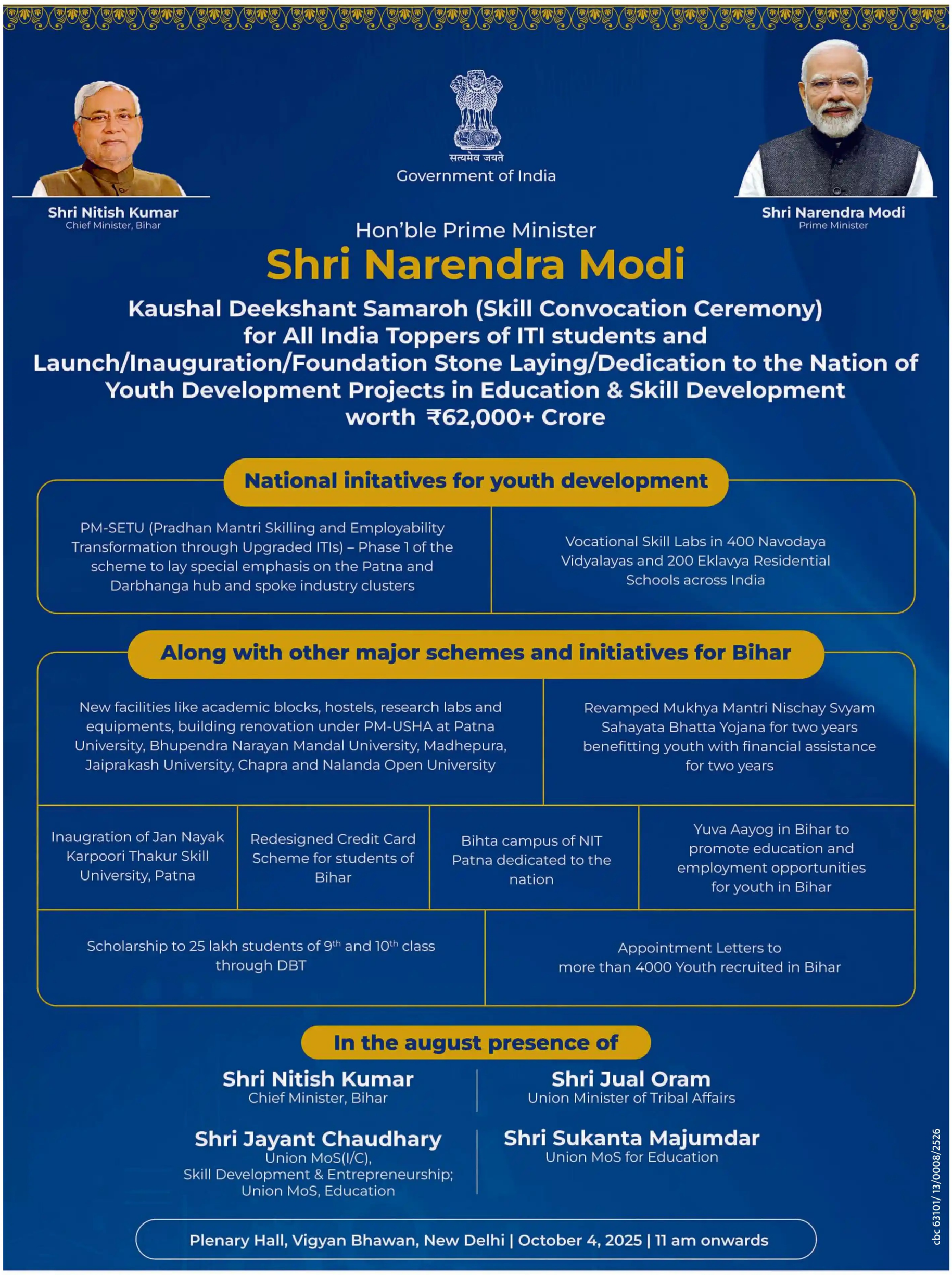
Anthropic, from Page 1

"Nammuru Bengaluru. My father is from Bagalkot and my mother is from Raichur. I was born and brought up in Bengaluru. I went to Baldwin Boys' High School and St Joseph's pre-university," Patil told *DH*.

Speaking to *DH*, Suresh Narasimha, a venture capitalist who is two years senior to Patil, said he is proud of him as a fellow PESIT alumnus and as a Bengalurean. "He was one of the top three students," he said.

Congratulating Patil, PES University said in a post on X that it is proud to celebrate the incredible journey of its alumni. Mekin Maheshwari, founder and CEO of Udhyam Learning Foundation, who also worked in Flipkart as Chief People Officer, is the batchmate as well as a good friend of Patil. He told *DH* that Patil is a successful leader. "He was CTO of Stripe. From a technical point of view, the future is AI, and it is good to see him in the top position."

He added that Patil grew up in Vijayanagar in Bengaluru and his top role now shows that potential is not limited to only a few universities.


Shri Nitish Kumar
Chief Minister, Bihar
सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India
Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi
Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh (Skill Convocation Ceremony)
for All India Toppers of ITI students and
Launch/Inauguration/Foundation Stone Laying/Dedication to the Nation of
Youth Development Projects in Education & Skill Development
worth ₹62,000+ Crore
National initatives for youth development
PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) – Phase 1 of the scheme to lay special emphasis on the Patna and Darbhanga hub and spoke industry clusters
Vocational Skill Labs in 400 Navodaya Vidyalayas and 200 Eklavya Residential Schools across India
Along with other major schemes and initiatives for Bihar
New facilities like academic blocks, hostels, research labs and equipments, building renovation under PM-USHA at Patna University, Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Madhepura, Jaiprakash University, Chapra and Nalanda Open University
Revamped Mukhya Mantri Nischay Svyam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana for two years benefitting youth with financial assistance for two years
Inaugration of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Skill University, Patna
Redesigned Credit Card Scheme for students of Bihar
Bihta campus of NIT Patna dedicated to the nation
Yuva Aayog in Bihar to promote education and employment opportunities for youth in Bihar
Scholarship to 25 lakh students of 9th and 10th class through DBT
Appointment Letters to more than 4000 Youth recruited in Bihar
In the august presence of
Shri Nitish Kumar
Chief Minister, Bihar
Shri Jual Oram
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs
Shri Jayant Chaudhary
Union MoS(I/C),
Skill Development & Entrepreneurship;
Union MoS, Education
Shri Sukanta Majumdar
Union MoS for Education
Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi | October 4, 2025 | 11 am onwards
cbc 63101/ 13/0008/2526
Watch the live telecast on DD News

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, Chakradharpur for & on behalf of the President of India against open tender for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl. No. & Tender Notice No.; Name of work; Tender value; EMD: (1) CKP-WEST-25-26-23, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of zonal work for Track and level crossing maintenance etc under Sr. Section Engineer (P-Way)/Bondamunda-I for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 (for two years i.e. from 01.10.2025 to 30.09.2027) under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Chakradharpur; ₹ 1,18,79,973.06; ₹ 2,09,400/-. **(2) CKP-WEST-25-26-24, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of zonal work for Track and level crossing maintenance etc. under Sr. Section Engineer (P-Way)/Rourkela for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 (for two years i.e. from 01.10.2025 to 30.09.2027) under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Chakradharpur; ₹ 1,38,59,999.82; ₹ 2,19,300/-. **(3) CKP-WEST-25-26-25, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of zonal work for Track and level crossing maintenance etc under Sr. Section Engineer (P-Way)/Rajgangpur for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 (for two years i.e. from 01.10.2025 to 30.09.2027) under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Chakradharpur; ₹ 1,97,99,999.90; ₹ 2,49,000/-. **(4) CKP-WEST-25-26-26, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of zonal work for Track and level crossing maintenance etc under Sr. Section Engineer (P-Way)/Jharsuguda for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 (for two years i.e. from 01.10.2025 to 30.09.2027) under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Chakradharpur; ₹ 1,97,99,999.90; ₹ 2,49,000/-. **(5) CKP-WEST-25-26-27, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of zonal work for Track and level crossing maintenance etc. between Jharsuguda - Sardega from Ch 0 - Ch 50 under Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Jharsuguda for period ending upto 30.09.2027 (for two years i.e. from 01.10.2025 to 30.09.2027) under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Chakradharpur; ₹ 2,59,66,799.84; ₹ 2,79,800/-. **(6) CKP-WEST-25-26-28, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of zonal works for service/residential buildings etc. in way side station between Tangarmunda-Panposh station under Sr. Section Engineer (Works)/Jharsuguda for period ending upto 30.06.2027 (2nd Call); ₹ 1,38,00,000/-; ₹ 2,19,000/-. **(7) CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-36, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track Maintenance work under Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Chakradharpur for period ending up to 30.09.2027 (for two years i.e. from 01.10.2025 to 30.09.2027) under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer/Central/Chakradharpur; ₹ 1,69,29,000/-; ₹ 2,34,700/-. **(8) CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-37, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track and level crossing maintenance works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Dumerta from 'A' cabin (km 407/11) to Chandiposi (km 438/0) & from Dumerta (km 412/11) to link C (km 579/5) line for the period ending up to 30.09.2027; ₹ 1,25,73,000/-; ₹ 2,12,900/-. **(9) CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-38, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track and level crossing maintenance works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way-II)/Bondamunda for the period ending up to 30.09.2027; ₹ 1,93,05,000/-; ₹ 2,46,500/-. **(10) CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-39, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track and level crossing maintenance works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Manoharpur for the period ending up to 30.09.2027; ₹ 2,22,75,000/-; ₹ 2,61,400/-. **(11) CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-40, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track and Level Crossing Maintenance works under the Jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer/P.Way/Dumerta from section Chandiposi (KM EX-438/0) to Barsuan (KM 475/0) for the Period ending up to 30.09.2027; ₹ 1,58,40,000/-; ₹ 2,29,200/-. **(12) CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-41, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track and level crossing maintenance works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Bimalgarh for the period ending up to 30.09.2027; ₹ 1,68,30,000/-; ₹ 2,34,200/-. **(13) CKP-EAST-25-26-23, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track maintenance work under Sr. Section Engineer(P. Way)/Sini for the Period Ending upto 30.09.2027; ₹ 1,98,09,899.99; ₹ 2,49,100/-. **(14) CKP-EAST-25-26-24, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track maintenance work under Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Adityapur for the Period Ending upto 30.09.2027; ₹ 1,58,39,999.99; ₹ 2,29,200/-. **(15) CKP-EAST-25-26-25, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track maintenance work under Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Tatanagar for the Period Ending upto 30.09.2027; ₹ 1,43,55,000/-; ₹ 2,21,800/-. **(16) CKP-EAST-25-26-26, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track maintenance work between station Tatanagar-Aunlajori, Aunlajori-Gorumahisani & Aunlajori-Badampahar under Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Bahalda Road for the Period Ending upto 30.09.2027; ₹ 1,28,70,000/-; ₹ 2,14,400/-. **(17) CKP-SOUTH-25-26-12, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track Maintenance work under Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Chaibasa for period ending upto 30.09.2027 (i.e. for two years) under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/South/Chakradharpur; ₹ 2,77,68,600/-; ₹ 2,88,900/-. **(18) CKP-SOUTH-25-26-13, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track Maintenance work under Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Dangoaposi for period ending upto 30.09.2027 (i.e. for two years) under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/South/Chakradharpur; ₹ 3,19,83,300/-; ₹ 3,09,900/-. **(19) CKP-SOUTH-25-26-14, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track Maintenance work under Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Banspani for period ending upto 30.09.2027.(i.e. for two years) under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/South/Chakradharpur; ₹ 3,59,28,000/-; ₹ 3,29,600/-. **(20) CKP-SOUTH-25-26-15, dated 26.09.2025;** Execution of Track Maintenance work under Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Bara Jamda for period ending upto 30.09.2027 (i.e. for two years) under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/South/Chakradharpur; ₹ 2,77,84,800/-; ₹ 2,88,900/-. **Cost of Tender Form :** 0.00 for each. **Date of Opening :** 21.10.2025 for each. The tender can be viewed at Web site **http://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. **Note :** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority–Railway Board's letter No. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-678)**

Govt ropes in actor Vasista Simha for water campaign

BENGALURU: The minor irrigation department on Friday announced actor Vasista Simha as its brand ambassador for the upcoming 'Water is Future' campaign.

Vasista Simha

In a statement, Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju said the actor "will play an active role in awareness drives across the state, including campaigns on lake rejuvenation, rainwater harvesting, and community participation."

Simha has signed up with the department without any remuneration, Boseraju added.

The 'Neeriddre Nale – Water is Future' campaign will be formally launched on October 9 at the Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha, by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy D K Shivakumar and other Cabinet members.

Citing the Karnataka Economic Survey 2024–25, Boseraju noted that nearly 60% of the state's total agricultural land depended on borewells, up from 37% a few decades ago. "This trend highlights the growing dependence on groundwater across farming communities, especially in drought-prone and rainfed regions, where borewells have become the primary source of irrigation," he said.

"Water is the foundation of our tomorrow, and through this initiative we seek to inspire collective responsibility for groundwater revival and judicious water use," Boseraju added.

N S BOSERAJU
Minor Irrigation Minister

"This trend highlights the growing dependence on groundwater across farming communities, especially in drought-prone and rainfed regions, where borewells have become the primary source of irrigation

Shivakumar asked to ensure all toe party line: Surjewala

AICC general secy launches signature campaign in support of 'vote chori' charge

BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala on Friday denied any dissidence in his party, and said that Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had been "fully authorised" to ensure all leaders fell in line.

Surjewala, who is in charge of the party's affairs, was reacting to show-cause notices that were issued to Kunigal MLA H D Ranganath and former MP L R Shivarame Gowda for publicly backing Shivakumar to become the CM.

"There's absolutely no dissent in the party," Surjewala said. "Our party president, who also happens to be the deputy CM, D K Shivakumar, is fully authorised to ensure that everybody toes the party line and doesn't speak beyond their brief," he said.

"Some people get excited on account of their emotions or otherwise and make statements beyond the remit and realm of the party's discipline," Surjewala said. "That's why I've asked Shivakumar to deal with them accordingly," he added.

'Vote Chori' campaign

On Friday, Surjewala launched a campaign to collect 5 crore signatures in support of the party's 'Vote Chori' charge. The signature campaign was started from the Pulakeshinagar constituency.

People of Pulakeshinagar Assembly constituency in Bengaluru participate in a signature campaign launched by the Congress against 'Vote Chori', on Friday. The grand old party hopes to collect 5 crore signatures from Karnataka.

Speaking at the event, Surjewala accused the BJP of creating "bogus voters" and called for this to be exposed.

"We're collecting 5 crore signatures (from Karnataka) to be placed before the Election Commission (EC). And, EC will be told that no Indian's vote can be cut and bogus voters added," Surjewala said. "What happened in Mahadevapura and Aland Assembly constituencies is happening in every Assembly and Lok Sabha constituency in India," he charged.

The stealing of votes is a "designed conspiracy", which Surjewala described as an "attack on the Constitution and democracy". The Election Commission, he said, is "captive" and was a "mute spectator and participant" in the theft of votes.

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA
AICC general secretary

"Some people get excited on account of their emotions or otherwise and make statements beyond the remit and realm of the party's discipline. That's why I've asked Shivakumar to deal with them accordingly.

State gets highest number of medical seats in country

Govt, pvt colleges get more than 1,000 new seats this year

BENGALURU, DHNS

For the current academic year, Karnataka has received the highest number of medical seats compared to other states across the country.

The state has received over 1,000 seats for MBBS courses, this year.

This includes both government and private colleges with a total of 13,595 seats, as against the 12,395 received in the 2024-25 academic year.

This year, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has sanctioned a total of 5,794 medical seats. In this, 1,000 seats were sanctioned for Karnataka.

Though the NMC had rejected the enhancement of seats for government medical colleges in the state, citing a lack of basic infrastructure, it approved and released most of the enhancements of seats sought by the colleges in September second week.

While 4,894 seats were sanctioned for 790 medical colleges in other states across the country, 1,000 seats were for 72 colleges in Karnataka.

The NMC has also sanctioned a new private medical college for the state with an intake of 100.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has added all the additional seats in the second round of counselling. It has completed two rounds and the process for the mop-up round seat allotment is on.

As the NMC has announced plans to provide 75,000 additional medical seats across the country by 2029, the Karnataka government is aiming to secure 1,000 more seats during the 2026-27 academic year.

Speaking to *DH*, Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil said that the government will apply for new colleges in Ramanagara and Bagalkot.

"We will try to improve facilities and increase the number of seats next year in the existing colleges. We will also apply for new colleges in Ramanagara and Bagalkot. Ramanagara is almost ready since we have a district hospital there, and for Bagalkot, the cabinet recently approved the project with Rs 450 crore," the minister added.

He also said that the government is working to establish colleges in Kolar and Tumakuru, proposed by the previous government under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

"For Kanakapura as well, we will try, and the proposal will be placed before the cabinet soon. We will seek approval for Kanakapura, and if successful, there will be at least 100 more seats available," he said.

Eminent journalist T J S George passes away

BENGALURU, DHNS

T J S George.

Eminent journalist, editor, and author Padmabhushan Thayil Jacob Sony George, popularly known as T J S George, passed away on Friday. He was 97.

George was renowned for his sharp wit, uncompromising voice, and a career that spanned over six decades. His professional journey began with Pioneer, and he was associated with Ramnath Goenka and the Indian Express for the longest tenure.

Senior journalist Ramakrishna Upadhya recalled George's dedication as the editorial advisor *Indian Express* (Now, *The New Indian Express*), Bengaluru, from the early 1980s for over two decades.

"George took the Bangalore Indian Express to great heights... he gave a lot of encouragement to young reporters," he said.

Upadhya also mentioned George's eccentric yet philanthropic nature, exemplified by his claim to be a "one rupee editor," never accepting a salary.

George's influence transcended the newsroom. Fellow senior editor K R Balasubramanyam lauded him as a "philanthropist in disguise" who quietly helped those in trouble."

"He used research extensively and he is a stark example of what journalism is and how a journalist should be," Balasubramanyam said and also credited George with encouraging writer Sudha Murty to write in English and being the first to publish her work.

Beyond journalism, George was a critically acclaimed author. His books include a definitive biography on M S Subbulakshmi and 'ASKEW: A Short Biography of Bangalore', which captured the city's spirit through anecdotes about places like Vidyarthi Bhavan and MTR.

George was also the visionary behind the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) in Bengaluru. Author and journalist C K Meena recalled his integrity and sudden warmth while they worked together, setting up ACJ.

Condolences poured in, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah posting on X that T J S George "was a true public intellectual who made readers think, question and engage." The veteran's legacy will endure through his powerful writings and the countless journalists he mentored, the CM said.

Young women told to develop therapeutic perspective

BENGALURU, DHNS

Gold medal-winning students share their joy at the second and third convocations of the Maharani's Cluster University at Jnanajyothi Auditorium in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO

Former vice-chancellor of Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University Sabiha Bhoomigowda advised young women to develop a therapeutic perspective during her address at the combined 2nd and 3rd convocation ceremonies of Maharani Cluster University in Bengaluru.

She said, "Young women should develop a therapeutic perspective, and those in socially advantaged positions should recognise their responsibilities and work towards helping women who are less privileged."

She emphasised the need to identify and uproot the root causes of atrocities against women from the grassroots level. Advising the graduating women to be cautious about competition, including from familiar people, she urged them not to focus solely on marks.

"It is difficult to win competitions based only on marks. Success comes when you first understand your skills and then promote them in the job market," she added.

Highlighting the importance of girls' education, Bhoomigowda remarked, "I have observed significant differences between young women studying in women-only colleges and those in co-educational institutions. In co-ed settings, although talented, young women often do not express their views clearly, think independently, or accept responsibilities willingly unless compelled. In contrast, in women's colleges, students take on all tasks and responsibilities confidently and without hesitation. This is a phenomenon worthy of reflection."

Speaking on the occasion, Dr M C Sudhakar, minister for higher education, expressed concern over declining student enrollment at Maharani Cluster University. "It is worrying that the number of students has decreased since Maharani College became a university. There is an urgent need to introduce job-oriented courses to attract more admissions," he said.

The university conferred honorary doctorates to six eminent personalities, including senior actress Bharathi Vishnuvardhan, Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, former women cricketer Veda Krishnamurthy, writer and activist Du Saraswathi, classical homoeopathy practitioner Dr B T Rudresh, and philanthropist H N Usha.

Governor and Chancellor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Vice-Chancellor T M Manjunatha were present. A total of 3,573 students received various degrees.

Eight from Belagavi drown in Arabian Sea, three bodies recovered

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Eight members of two families from the district drowned at Shiroda-Velagar beach in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district on Friday evening.

While three bodies have been recovered and one person rescued, four others remain missing.

The families, hailing from Londa in Khanapur taluk, had gone on a picnic to the beach. Around 5.45 pm, while they were playing in the water and had formed a human chain, a powerful wave pulled them into the sea. Isra Imran Kittur (17) was rescued. The bodies of Farheen Imran Kittur (36), Ibad Imran Kittur (13)—both residents of Londa—and Farhan Mohammad Maniyar (25), a resident of Kudal, were recovered. A search operation is underway to locate the remaining four missing persons.

Three children drown while swimming in lake in CB'Pur dist

▸ Bagepalli (Chikkaballapur district), DHNS: Three children, aged between 12 and 16, drowned while swimming in a lake at Achepalli village in the taluk on Friday.

The police have identified the deceased as Nihalraj (12), Vishnuvardhan (14), both students of the Achepalli government higher primary school, and Harshavardhan (16), a student of Vivekananda PU College. A group of six students ventured into the lake for swimming. The three victims didn't know how to swim and drowned after they entered the silt-laden lake. Three others swam to safety and rushed to the village to inform their parents about the incident.

The Fire and Emergency Services personnel, along with locals, fished out the bodies and shifted them to the taluk hospital for post-mortem.

3 from Yadgir killed as car topples

▸ **HIRIYUR (CHITRADURGA), DHNS:** Three members of a family, including a kid, died after a car turned turtle on NH 48 near Metikurke in the taluk on Friday. The police identified the deceased as Mallamma (26), Sarojamma (25) and a kid. While the women died on the spot, the kid breathed its last in a Chitradurga hospital.

2 killed, over 100 injured as Devaragattu stick fight ritual turns violent

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

At least two people died, and several others were critically injured following the annual Banni festival's traditional stick fight held during Dasara at Devaragattu in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. Devaragattu lies close to Ballari district and many from Karnataka take part in the Dasara rituals.

The festival, which took place past midnight Thursday in Holagunda mandal, is known for its centuries-old ritual. The deceased have been identified as Anjaneyalu (50) of Adoni Mandal and Thimmappa (40) of Harakeri village. Those seriously hurt were shifted to the government hospital in Adoni.

The Malamalleswara Swamy temple, atop the Devaragattu hills, holds special significance on Dasara. It is customary to conduct the celestial wedding of Malamma and Malleswara Swamy at midnight.

After the wedding ceremony, the idols are taken in a procession through Pathalagattu, Rakshapada, the Shami tree, and Edurubasavanna temple. During this procession, two rival groups fiercely clash with sticks, each striving to seize possession of the idols. This event is locally known as the Banni festival or Devaragattu stick fight.

Officials reported that nearly 3 lakh devotees from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana thronged the Sri Malamalleswara Swamy temple to witness the symbolic reenactment of Lord Shiva as Bhairava slaying demons Mani and Mallasura.

A large number of people take part in ritualistic stick fight as part of Banni festival held during Dasara at Devaragattu village in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. DH PHOTO

According to reports approximately 3,500 participants engaged in the stick fight, which unfortunately escalated into violence, leading to a stampede that left two dead and over 100 injured. Seven critically injured were shifted to Adoni Government Hospital, with dozens others treated at Aluru hospital. As the procession moved through rural areas, two rival groups clashed violently while attempting to take control of the idols. The situation descended into chaos midnight with hundreds of devotees collapsing, and women and children fleeing towards fields for safety.

Despite the presence of over 700 police personnel, drone surveillance, and CCTV coverage at key points, the clashes intensified, involving stick blows and stone pelting. Additional police forces from Nandyal and Kurnool were swiftly deployed to regain control.

Hubballi-Ankola rly project set to get Cabinet nod: Joshi

HUBBALLI, DHNS

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Friday that the long-pending Hubballi-Ankola railway line project is expected to receive Cabinet approval soon as the revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) has incorporated all suggestions made by the Forest Advisory Committee and the Wildlife Board.

The project, now estimated at Rs 17,000 crore, has been resubmitted with a proposal for doubling the line—up from a single line in the original version. "All the concerns raised by the forest and wildlife panels have been addressed in the revised DPR, which is now at the stage of being placed before the Cabinet. We are hopeful that all required clearances will be granted this time," Joshi told reporters after a meeting with South Western Railway (SWR) officials in Hubballi.

Joshi noted that the Hubballi-Ankola railway line would act as a gateway to development in the region. "Belagavi will also benefit from a better direct link to a port via the proposed direct line between Dharwad and Belagavi," he added.

Shifting focus to political developments, Joshi commented on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent remarks about remaining in office for another two-and-a-half years. "Any Chief Minister repeatedly saying he will continue in the position is the first sign of instability. Does he lack confidence? This is the reason behind the ongoing confusion in the government," Joshi remarked.

Pralhad Joshi

He also alleged that Congress leaders themselves had spoken about a 'revolution' and that the caste census controversy was created to prevent it.

"We oppose questions in the socio-educational (caste) survey related to affiliations with social organisations and income tax payments. These seem intended to target specific individuals, including those associated with the RSS and Bajrang Dal," he said.

'No injustice'

On the issue of GST compensation, Union minister Pralhad Joshi asserted that the Union government had not done any injustice to Karnataka. "The state government should manage its finances better instead of blaming the Centre," he added.

Socio-edu survey: Over 90 lakh houses covered after Day 12

BENGALURU, DHNS: As many as 90.61 lakh households (3.42 crore persons) were enumerated across the state by the end of 12 days of the ongoing social and educational survey.

On Friday, 9.35 lakh households were enumerated. The survey is targeting 1.43 crore households and 63.03% of the target has been met.

On the last 5 days of the survey, around 53 lakh households need to be covered.

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Smt. Nirmala Srikantan
(W/o Late Dr. S Srikantan)
In Cherished memory of our beloved Mother who left us this day (4th Oct.) in 1996
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Daughter: Geetha Srikantan
E-Mail : r_srikantan@yahoo.com

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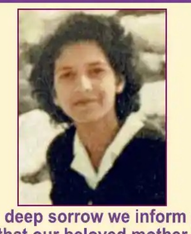

With deep sorrow we inform you that our beloved mother
Mrs Joan Roberts
expired on 2nd October 2025, aged 96. A Mass will be held for her at Our Lady of Divine Providence Church (next to Divina Eventide) at 11.30am on Saturday 4th October followed by burial at the Catholic cemetery at Whitefield at 3pm.
Inserted by her children
Br David Roberts, Mr Paul Roberts, Mrs Mary Bhalla, and Dr. Daniel Roberts.

OBITUARY

With deep sorrow, we regret to inform the demise of
Shri S. THIPPA NAIK
He passed away peacefully at home on 3rd October, in the presence of his beloved wife, daughter and son. Cremation will be held on Saturday, 4th October 2025 at 2:00 pm at Kengeri Electric Crematorium.
We request your prayers in this moment of grief.
Dr. N. Seethalakshmi (Wife)
Mamta (Daughter) | Aravind (Son)
Bala (Son -in-law) | Maya (Daughter-in-law)
Maitreyi (Grand daughter)

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Kerala's wildlife bill faces backlash

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As the Kerala government pushes forward with amendments to the Wildlife Protection Act, citing man-animal conflicts, environmentalists are intensifying their campaign against what they claim are moves to dilute wildlife safeguards.

Apart from social media campaigns and petitions to the government, an online signature drive has been launched, timed to coincide with the nationwide Wildlife Week celebrations from October 2 to 8.

Coexistence Collective-Kerala, a state-based forum of environmentalists, is spearheading the campaign.

The signature drive 'Forests Need Guardians, Not Hunters' demands that the Kerala government withdraw the Kerala Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, which is currently under consideration by the Assembly subject committee.

The primary concern with the proposed amendments is the relaxation of norms regarding the killing of wild animals. The bill allows for the shooting of wild animals that enter residential areas and empowers the government to declare such animals as vermin, classifying them under Schedule II.

"The proposed amendments are aimed at legalising reckless killings instead of addressing the real causes of conflict — habitat loss, encroachment, quarrying and destruction of corridors," says the collective, which comprises well-known environmentalists.

They urge the government to adopt scientific and community-based solutions to human-wildlife conflict.

Special advisor to Brazilian Prez holds talks with NSA Doval

NEW DELHI, PTI: Celso Luis Nunes Amorim, the special advisor to the Brazilian president, on Friday held talks with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, focusing on boosting bilateral ties in areas of defence, energy and critical minerals.

Amorim, accompanied by a delegation of senior officials, is on a visit to New Delhi ahead of a planned trip to India by Brazil's President Luiz InÃ¡cio Lula da Silva.

Doval and Amorim held talks under the framework of the India-Brazil Strategic Dialogue. "The dialogue was an opportunity to follow up on the issues identified under five pillars of cooperation during the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Brazil in July," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

It said NSA Doval and Amorim reviewed ongoing progress in the strategic partnership, including in diverse areas such as defence and security, energy, rare earths and critical minerals and health and pharmaceuticals.

The two sides also discussed cooperation in multilateral forums such as BRICS, India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA), and the forthcoming COP-30 to be hosted by Brazil in November.

Amorim also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

HC raps Vijay, forms SIT to investigate Karur stampede

Denies anticipatory bail to TVK general secy, joint secy

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Days after a stampede claimed 41 lives at Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay's rally in Karur, the Madras High Court on Friday castigated the actor-turned-politician for "disappearing" from the rally scene and the Tamil Nadu government for failing to act against him, even as it set up a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the incident.

Justice N Senthilkumar asked what kind of political party the TVK was, noting that everyone concerned fled Karur after the deaths and no one accepted responsibility.

"The court strongly condemns the act of the political party, especially when children and women have died. The party has not even expressed remorse, which shows the mental state of the leader," the judge observed.

Rejecting a plea for a CBI inquiry into the September 27 incident, the judge ordered the formation of an SIT headed by senior IPS officer Asra Garg, Inspector General of Police (North Zone).

Vijay

In a related development, the HC also rejected the anticipatory bail pleas of TVK general secretary Bussy N Anand and joint secretary C T R Nirmal Kumar. Anand's counsel argued that the rally was organised by the Karur (North) district unit and that it was sufficient that the district secretary had already been arrested.

The government also came under attack for not naming Vijay in the FIR, which so far includes only Madhiazhagan, the TVK's Karur district secretary, alongside Anand and Nirmal Kumar. The court asked: "What prevents you from taking further action pursuant to the registration of the FIR on the Karur stampede?"

The DMK government, led by Chief Minister M K Stalin, has been cautious in dealing with Vijay, apparently to avoid creating sympathy for him.

Justice Senthilkumar noted that Vijay "disappeared from the scene" and lamented that "there was no one left to help the people".

He said he condoled the deaths as a human being, and is deeply pained as a judge to witness such loss of life. Calling the tragedy a "huge man-made disaster", he said the court could not close its eyes, remain a mute spectator, or shirk its responsibilities.

He also pointed to videos showing Vijay's fans dangerously chasing his vehicle, with two-wheelers caught under his campaign bus, and asked why no case was filed against those responsible. He further asked whether the government was showing leniency toward the TVK.

BJP wants political gains from TN stampede: Stalin

CHENNAI, DHNS: Tearing into the BJP for sending a "fact-finding" team to Karur on the stampede in actor-politician Vijay's rally that killed 41 people, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday alleged that the saffron party was trying to see if it could gain any "political advantage" from the incident and "intimidate or manipulate" someone with it.

M K Stalin

In his speech at a government event in the Ramanathapuram district, Stalin also launched a frontal attack on Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami, alleging that he jumped into the "BJP washing machine" to "become pure".

Stalin's remarks come amid the AIADMK and the BJP visibly supporting Vijay and his TVK over the past few days, which has led to intense speculation on whether the parties felt the stampede had opened a window to engage with the actor, who had been keeping them at arm's length. Except for thanking political leaders for supporting it, the TVK has spoken about neither the incident nor alliances.

Festive specials you can try at home

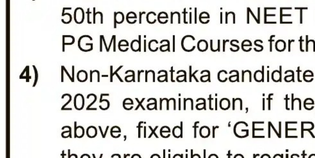
The festive season is on and it's time to host some sumptuous lunches. Guests, colleagues or friends, special dishes are certainly called for. Chef Sihi Kahi Chandru has a couple for you to try at home this season.

Sihi Kahi Chandru shows off his Hithikida Avarebele Melogra

Southekayi Muddipalya

What you need:

- Two cucumbers
- Four green chillies
- Quarter bunch of coriander leaves
- Half a cup each of grated coconut and ground nuts
- One teaspoon each of jeera, channa dal and urad dal
- Quarter teaspoon each of asafoetida and fenugreek seeds
- Tamarind – one small piece
- Ten curry leaves
- Two teaspoons of besan
- Two tablespoons of oil and salt to taste



Preparation:

Cut the cucumber. Remove the seeds and grate them, and keep aside. Grind green chillies, coriander leaves, grated coconut, jeera, asafoetida, tamarind, fenugreek seeds and mustard into a coarse paste without adding water, and keep aside.

Prepare a slurry out of the besan using a little water. Mix well and ensure there are no lumps, and keep aside.

Heat the oil in a kadai. Add mustard and allow it to crackle. Add channa dal, urad dal, ground nuts and saute till they turn golden brown. Add curry leaves and saute for a minute. Add grated cucumber along with salt to taste and mix well. Add prepared paste and mix well. Add a little water and simmer till the cucumber is cooked. Add besan slurry and mix well, and cook till it thickens.

Serve with rice or chapatti.

Hithikida Avarebele Melogra

What you need:

- Two cups of hithikida avarebele
- Four Guntur red chillies
- Ten Byadagi red chillies
- One teaspoon each of coriander seeds, jeera and urad dal
- Half teaspoon each of poppy seeds, turmeric and mustard
- Two-inch cinnamon
- Four cloves, three green cardamom
- Half a cup each of grated copra and ground nuts
- One rough cut tomato
- Two teaspoons each of tamarind pulp and oil
- Curry leaves - 20
- Quarter cup of chopped coriander
- Quarter teaspoon of asafoetida
- Two tablespoons of ghee
- Salt to taste

Preparation:

Put the hithikida avarebele in a deep vessel along with ground nuts and add water enough to sink them. Add some salt and boil till completely cooked.

Heat oil in a pan. Add cinnamon, cloves, green cardamoms, urad dal, coriander seeds, jeera, poppy seeds, guntur red chillies and byadgi red chillies till they release their aroma. Add rough cut tomato and saute till it turns soft and mushy. Add grated copra along with turmeric and saute for few minutes. Switch off the flame and allow it to cool.

Transfer the cooled masalas to a mixie jar and grind into a fine paste using a little water. Add the ground paste to the boiled avarebele and mix well. Add curry leaves and salt as required and continue to boil till the raw aroma goes.

Heat ghee in a tadka pan. Add asafoetida and mustard and allow the mustard to crackle. Transfer the prepared tadka to the boiling avarebele. Garnish with chopped coriander and serve with chapati.

Allow them to cool. Store in an airtight container. Serve with hot coffee.

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Delhi court sends 'godman' to 14-day judicial custody

NEW DELHI, PTI: A Delhi court on Friday remanded self-styled godman Chaitanyananda Saraswati to 14-day judicial custody.

The police produced him before judicial magistrate Animesh Kumar at the Patiala House Courts on the completion of his five-day police custody.

Police had sought judicial custody for Chaitanyananda, accused of molesting 17 women students at a private management institute here.

His counsel moved an application seeking the supply of the seizure memo and the case diaries, which was allowed by the court.

The court sought a response from police on other applications seeking wearing of monk robes, providing medicines and 'sanyasi' food.

Idol immersion: 25 drown in UP, MP

14 drowned in a river and pond in UP; 11 killed in MP lake

LUCKNOW/INDORE/KHANDWA/AYODHYA
DHNS & PTI

Durga idol immersion turned tragic in several places across India on Thursday, with 25 deaths reported from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh alone.

In a tragic incident, 13 people—mostly teens—drowned in the Utangan river in UP's Agra district on Thursday night. Police sources said five bodies had been fished out of the river so far, while efforts were on to trace the others.

Local reports said the incident happened when the youths were taking a Durga idol for immersion. The victims hailed from the Kusiyapur Dungarwala village in the district. Eyewitness accounts said one of the victims slipped while carrying the idol, and the others, who held each other's hands, were dragged deep into the water.

Villagers at the rescue operations site after young men drowned in the Yamuna River in Agra on Friday. PTI

District Magistrate Arvind Mallappa Bangari said the administration had sought help from the Army to trace the missing. He added that the administration had designated a site for immersions, but the group chose another spot.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives, according to an official statement issued in Lucknow that was also posted on X.

In the Ayodhya district, a 16-year-old boy drowned in a pond, said the police on Friday. Sandeep, a resident of the Salhipur Parsipur village, had gone with his kin to see an idol immersion on Thursday when he slipped into the pond and drowned.

Meanwhile, 11 youngsters drowned in the tribal-dominated Padalphata village in MP's Khandwa on Thursday evening as the vehicle carrying them plunged into a lake.

"People from 25-30 villages visit the lake to immerse Durga idols... However, the administration had not posted any government employees there to alert devotees about the lake's depth," local resident Sawan Dangode told PTI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident and also announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

Kadam's claim on Balasaheb's death sparks row

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Veteran Shiv Sena leader Ramdas Kadam sparked controversy with a stunning claim that late Balasaheb Thackeray's body was kept at Matoshree for two days before his death was officially announced.

The Shiv Sena founder passed away on November 17, 2012, at the age of 86.

Kadam's comments drew strong criticism from the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT).

He made the claim during Shiv Sena's Dussehra rally at Goregaon on Thursday, in the presence of Eknath Shinde, the party's chief leader and Deputy Chief Minister.

"Balasaheb passed away two days earlier, but his body was kept inside Matoshree for hand impressions. This is what the doctors who treated him told me," he said.

Kadam demanded an investigation into the matter. "I am making this statement with full responsibility," he asserted.

On Friday, speaking to reporters, he intensified the allegations, claiming that Uddhav "tortured" the body of his late father.

"I told Uddhav ji to take impressions of his feet, but he said he has taken impressions of his palms. What use have you made of these impressions? Let there be a narco analysis test on me and Uddhav ji to verify this," the Shiv Sena leader demanded.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) labelled Kadam a betrayer. "What does he know? I was constantly at Matoshree during those difficult times," said Sanjay Raut, a close aide of the Thackeray family.

EC tells observers to stay accessible during Bihar polls

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Describing election observers as "beacons of democracy", the Election Commission (EC) on Friday asked those assigned for the Bihar Assembly elections and a clutch of bypolls in other states to remain "fully accessible" to parties, candidates and voters for the redressal of their grievances.

Addressing a meeting of 425 officers appointed as general, police and expenditure observers, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said they are the "eyes and ears" of the EC.

He urged them to familiarise themselves with all election laws, rules and guidelines, provide direct field inputs, and ensure their strict and impartial compliance.

He said they were "beacons of democracy" and stressed that they should visit polling stations and oversee the implementation of recent initiatives taken by the EC for the convenience of voters. They were instructed to remain fully accessible to parties, candidates and voters for grievance redressal, a statement said.

According to the EC, 425 officers, including 287 IAS officers, 58 IPS officers and 80 officers from IRS/IRAS/ICAS and other services, attended the meeting. The session was also attended by Election Commissioners Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi.

These observers will be deployed in constituencies in Bihar as well as in Budgam and Nagrota (Jammu and Kashmir), Anta (Rajasthan), Ghatsila (Jharkhand), Jubilee Hills (Telangana), Tarn Taran (Punjab), Dampa (Mizoram) and Nuapada (Odisha).

The EC deploys central observers under the plenary powers conferred on it by Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 20B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to monitor the conduct of elections in a constituency. The observers work under the superintendence, control and discipline of the EC for the period from their appointment until the completion of the election process.

The EC said that with their seniority and long experience in administrative services, general and police observers assist the poll body in conducting free and fair elections, while expenditure observers are appointed to monitor the election expenses of candidates.

Sabarimala gold row: Mallya's donation takes a copper turn

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Sabarimala gold missing row is deepening, with portions of the gold plating at the temple — sponsored by former industrialist Vijay Mallya in 1998-99 — now suspected to have disappeared. The key suspect, Bengaluru-based Malayali Unnikrishnan Potti, was also found to have taken gold-plated panels meant for Sabarimala to the home of actor Jayaram in Chennai.

A Chennai-based gold plating firm entrusted with repairing the 'Dwarapalaka' (guardian) idols at the sanctum sanctorum of the Ayyappa temple in 2019 revealed that the panels given for plating by Potti were made of copper only.

Malayali advocate KB Pradeep, who runs Smart Creation, confirmed this to the media.

However, the idols were reportedly gold-plated with Mallya's sponsorship back in 1998-99, using around 30 kilograms of gold for the work.

Kandararu Mohanaru, the former tantri of the Sabarimala temple, told a section of the media that the idols were also gold-plated with the sponsorship of Mallya.

The fresh revelations strengthen the suspicions surrounding the reported loss of around 4.5 kg in the weight of the gold-plated panels, as noted by the Kerala High Court.

The total weight of the copper coverings was 42.8 kg before they were handed over to Potti for gold-plating in August 2019. After that, it reportedly dropped to 38.26 kg.

Meanwhile, actor Jayaram confirmed that some portions of the gold-plated panels, which Potti claimed were meant for Sabarimala, were taken to his home in Chennai, where a brief pooja was performed. Video footage of Jayaram attending the pooja in 2019 also surfaced, prompting the actor's revelation.

Jayaram also said that he gave a few thousand rupees as dakshina.

It is suspected that Potti had taken the gold-plated panels from Sabarimala to various places to collect donations, especially from wealthy devotees in South India.

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2) As per Government Order No. HFW 882 HSH 2021 Bangalore Dated: 10-01-2022, KEA is also inviting application online from the eligible Karnataka in-service candidates who have qualified in NEET-PG-2025 and desirous of applying DNB / Diploma Courses in the State of Karnataka for the Academic year 2025-26.
3) The candidates who have obtained more than or equal to the prescribed minimum 50th percentile in NEET PG 2025 only are eligible to register and apply online for PG Medical Courses for the year 2025-26.
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6) Registration fee, details of document verification, original documents to be submitted for document verification, and other details have been published on the KEA Website. Interested and eligible candidates can register by selecting the specified link on the KEA Website apply online and appear for document verification on the specified dates as per their eligibility.
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8) Mere qualifying in NEET-PG 2025 does not confer any right on the candidate for admission unless the candidate fulfils eligibility conditions / submits the documents / certificates. Further, only the candidates who complete the registration process including document verification are eligible for PG Medical seats in Government / Private Colleges in Karnataka.
9) For more details please visit KEA Website: **https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/KEA/pgetmed2025**

NOTE: As per NMC, New Delhi letter dated 24-07-2023; all the rounds of counseling including Stray Vacancy Round will be conducted only by KEA in online mode, all the PG NEET qualified candidates are hereby advised to register online and complete the document verification process in KEA to become eligible for admission to PG Medical Courses in the State of Karnataka.

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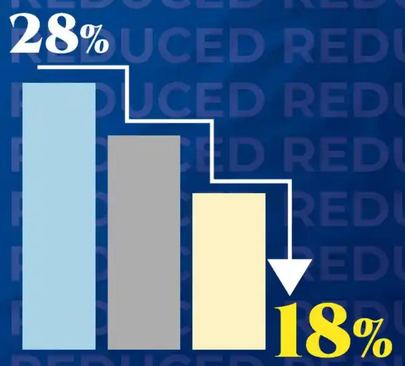

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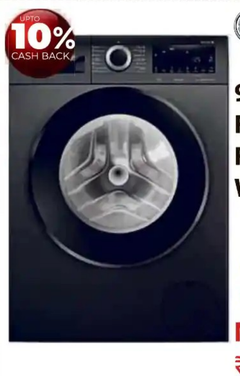

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Aid blockade expands war through starvation

In blocking a flotilla of about 40 boats headed to Gaza with aid, and detaining activists including Greta Thunberg, Israel has thumbed its nose at an international leadership that remains silent on its war crimes. This interception of vessels and detention of solidarity activists in waters policed by Israel is the brazen extension of a strategy to weaponise starvation in the war-ravaged enclave. The flotilla, transporting food and medicine, was seen as an inspired stroke of resistance against Israel's blockade in Gaza. The incident has triggered protests in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. But the West's response to the massive, ongoing humanitarian crisis – people-led protests notwithstanding – has been limited to statements of condemnation.

Some countries, such as the US, are guilty of enabling the war crimes; others are aiding and abetting by supplying arms and workers; and there are those who are complicit but posture with statements of support for the people in Gaza. Palestinian supporters in the US have been criminalised and deported. In Europe, its economic powerhouse, Germany, is in the news for the violence its security forces unleash against those protesting Israel's war crimes. The recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin saw early signs of a Russia-India-China troika – a new, critical formation with global import – that also contented itself with mere words that are unlikely to deter Israel from its relentless offensive.

Israel has weaponised hunger in Gaza. Can new power centres break the complicit silence?

Few seem to be moved by a mid-September report by independent experts commissioned by the United Nations' Human Rights Council, which accused the Benjamin Netanyahu government of genocide in Gaza. The Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, led by former UN human rights chief Navi Pillay, also called on the international community to end the genocide. The panel, established in 2021, said its latest findings were the most authoritative on the situation in Gaza. Israel rejected the findings, calling it "distorted and false". The US has lost its claim and capability for global leadership, and nothing can be expected of the Donald Trump regime on humanitarian issues, particularly when it involves the US-patronised Netanyahu. As Israel asserted itself as an expansionist state with impunity, major Western powers even backed its right to "defend itself". The latest blockade of aid to Gaza further reveals the resolve with which Israel is waging its war on a hapless people. The SCO, especially the RIC axis within, and the G20 should intervene swiftly and decisively on the right side of history to uphold the Palestinian people's right to live.

Child marriages decline, not defeated

The sharp decline in child marriages in India, as reported in a recent survey, marks a welcome trend for an important human development indicator. The survey by 'Just Rights for Children', a network of over 250 NGOs working for child protection, reported that child marriage among girls declined by 69% and among boys by 72% between April 2022 and March 2025. The report – Tipping Point to Zero: Evidence Towards a Child Marriage Free India – was released during an event on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York last week. The survey was conducted in five states, chosen in a way to represent the country. Assam led with an 84% decline in marriages of girls, followed by Maharashtra and Bihar (70% each), Rajasthan (66%), and Karnataka (55%).

The survey found FIRs and arrests to be the most effective as deterrents against child marriage. But co-ordinated action of central and state governments, along with civil society organisations, also played a major role in this achievement. While three children were being married off every minute in 2019-21, only three cases were reported in an entire day. The awareness of child marriage laws is near universal and 99% of the respondents had seen or heard about the government's Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign. In 31% of the surveyed villages, all girls in the 6-18 age group were attending school, but huge disparities between states were reported, with Bihar coming at the bottom. The reasons cited for child marriage included poverty (91%) and safety for minor girls (44%), apart from societal traditions and norms.

India must build on improved public awareness to push efforts towards absolute deterrence

Karnataka has stood apart from the other states in that it depended more on helplines and Child Welfare Committees, than on police stations, for reporting cases. The survey traced this detail to an important link between trust in community-based systems and action against child marriage. It also acknowledged the significance of the state government's decision to empower Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) to register marriages. The PDOs were instrumental in improving public awareness; in 2021, they were able to stop nearly 2,000 child marriages. The state's move to criminalise child betrothal is also aligned with the larger vision. The survey report has recommended compulsory registration of marriages. Outreach through targeted initiatives will be crucial in India's efforts to eradicate child marriage. The big drop in numbers shows that the country is on the right path. The government must leverage marked improvement in public awareness of the issue to devise programmes with greater scope and impact.

A LEGACY UNDER THREAT

Reclaiming Gandhi in an age of hate

Gandhi remains a revered global brand, but back home, he is also vilified in an orchestrated campaign

SUDARSHAN IYENGAR

The United Nations has declared October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence. The world has recognised Gandhi as an apostle of peace. A total of 102 countries celebrating Gandhi as a global icon of non-violence and peace have installed his statues. He is one of the 10 outstanding personalities ever born in the last two millennia about whom the highest number of writings have appeared.

The Prime Minister of our country has stated publicly that Gandhi is a global icon, and his memorials and abode in Ahmedabad, the Sabarmati Ashram, will be transformed into a world-class memorial. An ambitious plan of Rs 1,200 crore is in progress. India's top leadership cannot afford to abandon Gandhi. It is understood clearly that Gandhi is India's global face. Hence, he continues to be referred to.

Our Prime Minister has directly referred to Gandhi in six out of 17 speeches at foreign Parliaments from November 2014 to September 2025. He has, on umpteen other occasions, referred to Gandhi indirectly and used Gandhi for international branding. Talking about sustainability and equity, he has referred to Gandhi's basic principles. Gandhi's message of *vasudhaiva kutumbakam* is often uttered in the Prime Minister's international addresses. It has served him well in his diplomatic purposes.

In the country, too, he launched the *Swachh Bharat* mission on October 2, 2014. Recently, he has been vocal on *swadeshi*. Symbolism is at its height. Entering the check-in section in Terminal 3 of the Delhi international airport, one can hardly miss the display of a huge *charkha* – the spinning wheel, weighing four tonnes and made of Burma teak. The Prime Minister, on the occasion of its installation, said the *charkha* would serve to remind travellers at the IGI airport of India's timeless heritage and the value of sustainability and harmony it stood for. He has appealed to the citizens of the country to embrace khadi. At the Ahmedabad International Airport, travellers cannot miss a small exhibit titled Gandhi-*ji ke pad chinha* – Gandhiji's step marks.

But in the country where he was born and in the nation he lived and died for, a hate campaign has been sharpened during the last 25 years. Gandhi has also become a person to be hated for his alleged partiality towards Muslims. His 15 years of relentless action to remove untouchability are mocked. He is condemned for ignoring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. He is made responsible for Bhagat Singh's hanging. His contribution to the country's independence movement is marginalised. 'The Father of the Nation,' a title given by Bose, is ridiculed. Social media has run amok, destroying Gandhi in our minds.

'Gandhi's Gujarat', a popular adage once, is a bad expression today. Manifest and concealed violence with hatred has taken over the minds and hearts of people. The Hindu hardliner mobs move freely with hardly any restraint from the protectors of law. It is unnerving to learn from various quarters that the Navratri *garba* festival organisers face hardened inquiries by mobs about how many passes and tickets have been issued to Muslims.

Earlier this year, rising instances of hate speech were reported – 1,165 in 2024, compared with 668 a year earlier, at events such as political rallies, religious processions, protest marches, and cultural gatherings. Hate speech peaked during the election campaign last year, a report noted.

Climate of animosity

Gandhi spent a significant part of his life fighting caste-based violence. Despite his sharp differences with B R Ambedkar, who led the struggle for constitutional rights of the Dalits, Gandhi continued his campaign to eradicate untouchability. Have we Indians not failed both Ambedkar and Gandhi? The so-called upper and superior castes leave no opportunity to insult, condemn, exploit, rape, injure, and kill Dalits.

The hate campaign is orchestrated and politically motivated. The minds behind the campaign want the marginalised of this country to remain subjugated. We, the citizens of India, are yet to realise the fallout of this atmosphere of hate, hurt, discrimination, and animosity we are creating. Let us understand that when a section of the population is targeted, and when people, directly, and the State, with deceit, play this game, the condemned group will be driven to the wall. Breadwinners of such communities, when they are not given fair opportunities, will be forced into a corner. This is the breeding ground for a new cycle of hate and violence that can consume the country.

Mahatma Gandhi, a global icon of non-violence, dedicated his life to ending caste-based violence and promoting Hindu-Muslim unity. Yet, his legacy faces vilification in modern India through orchestrated hate campaigns. Despite his efforts to erase untouchability and foster equality, Dalits and Muslims continue to face discrimination, exploitation, and violence in 2025, betraying both Gandhi's and Ambedkar's visions.

Social and political forces marginalise minorities, treating them as the "lowest caste" through boycotts and exclusion, fostering friction and potential retaliation. Gandhi's philosophy of *satyagraha*, emphasising truth, non-violence, and global unity, inspired worldwide movements but is under threat in India by those who distort history for narrow gains. To honour Gandhi's 156th birth anniversary, India must reject hate, embrace interfaith dialogue, and uphold justice to heal divisions and secure a peaceful future.

(The writer is a former vice chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith, the university founded by Gandhi in 1920; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The closet of gigabyte skeletons

Smartphones have become the keepers of our memories and money

K SHAJIL KUMAR

Lucky is the man who does not have skeletons in his closet, so goes the saying. But in this digital era, the closet or cupboard has been replaced by our smartphones and laptops. These gadgets now hold so many vital and crucial records of our lives that if they land in the wrong hands, our future could be in jeopardy.

In the last decade or two, mobile phone usage has become so pervasive that it has scaled all class, gender and age barriers. Our lives have become so dependent on our phones that they have now become an extension of ourselves.

With each upgrade and new feature, these devices have progressively entwined themselves with our private and official lives.

In the early 2000s, we had the feature phones that could carry our contact lists, call logs, text messages, and maybe a few games. They could not access the internet or download apps, photos or videos.

Those were the early days, and mobile phones were prized possessions, with even incoming calls and messages getting charged. People saw this as a new mode of communication that helped them stay in touch while on the move but used it very sparingly and followed some cheat codes to beat high call rates.

The traditional landline phones continued to hold sway, as they were cheaper; the only threat mobile phones posed then was to wristwatches and clocks.

Once the charges for incoming calls and messages were abolished, mobile phone sales and usage grew by leaps and bounds. Many one-handset households turned into multi-handset ones, and soon families began pondering whether a landline was needed at all.

Along came camera phones. Many wondered why a camera was needed on a phone, which is meant to communicate. But all naysayers were proved wrong, and what these camera phones spawned was something no one had foreseen – selfie culture.

Now no age group, social strata or ethnicity is free from this narcissistic affliction; hardly any occasion or place is considered not kosher for a selfie. Now we have reached such a stage where prominent handset brands are offering 'selfie cameras' as their unique selling proposition!

However, the game changer was the smartphone. They offered a seamless link to the internet, and the facility to download apps completely changed our personal and work lives.

It changed the way we socialise, handle finances, shop, travel, and access news and entertainment. Smartphones are the first thing we look at after waking up and the last thing before crashing at night. They have now become a rich repository of your personal photos and videos, your health data, banking and digital payments apps, and authenticator gateways to access protected networks of your office.

Losing a smartphone is a calamity, irrespective of the passcodes and other safety nets. Even moving data from an old smartphone to a new one is as challenging as moving houses!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RBI's prudent decision amid global uncertainty

Apropos 'Unchanged Repo: A pause for caution' (Oct 3), the RBI's recent decision to keep repo rates unchanged acknowledges the complex national and international dynamics affecting the economy. While the national scenario offers political stability and favourable economic macro factors, including steady growth and benign inflationary expectations, the international scenario has been highly unpredictable due to geopolitical uncertainties, particularly emanating from US policies. The Reserve Bank's neutral stance, aiming for economic growth while keeping inflation expectations below 4%, is commendable. The market sentiments have been aligned with expectations, and it is hoped that the economy continues on the growth track as widely anticipated globally.

T V Gopalakrishnan, Bengaluru

Right content, wrong context

Apropos 'Indian democratic system under wholesale attack: Rahul Gandhi' (Oct 3), while Rahul Gandhi's speech on foreign soil may have been ill-timed, his concerns about the state of Indian democracy warrant attention. The judiciary, press, and other constitutional bodies are indeed facing challenges. Election Commission and Information Commission have become the latest caged parrots, unable to live up to their constitutionally defined roles. Self-criticism, even if factually correct, should be constructive and consider the potential implications of being voiced on foreign soil.

S V Venkatakrishnan, Bengaluru

The missing grace

India's victory against Pakistan in the Asia Cup Cricket tournament in Dubai was notable. However, the Indian team's refusal to receive the trophy from Mohsin Naqvi, Chairman of the ACC and Pakistan's Minister, has sparked debate. While the reason behind this decision is understandable, given Pakistan's support for terrorist activities in India, the Indian team perhaps could have been more gracious in accepting the trophy from Naqvi, given his role as ACC Chairman. The distinction between sporting opponents and political adversaries is crucial.
In international tournaments, teams often play against countries with which they may not have friendly bilateral relations. The same principle could be applied in this case.

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I feel that Congress and Rahul Gandhi, while opposing the BJP, are also opposing the country... They have become accustomed to saying bad things about India...

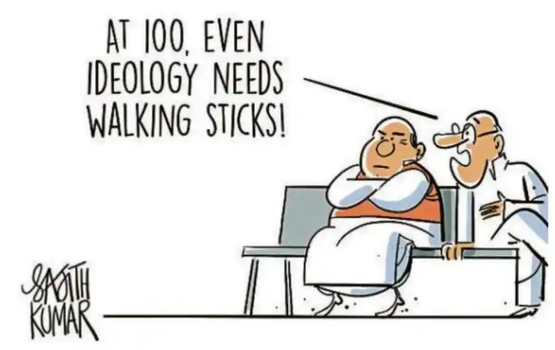
Sukanta Majumdar, Union Minister

Men in authority will always think that criticism of their policies is dangerous. They will always equate their policies with patriotism, and find criticism subversive.

Henry Steele Commager

TO BE PRECISE

Diversity is India's tradition and we must embrace our differences: RSS chief



IN PERSPECTIVE

Train to Bhutan, a check on China

As China pushes for stakes in the Himalayan nation, the new rail links promise strategic gains for India

PARUL CHANDRA

India has just upped its strategic game to ensure Bhutan remains within its sphere of influence in the long run by announcing two railway projects that will link it to the Himalayan kingdom. With China eager to usurp any strategic space that India might cede in Bhutan, which it tries to bully in any case, this latest move by New Delhi is meant to forge close physical and economic linkages with a neighbour that lies strategically nestled between the two Asian giants.

For landlocked Bhutan, enhanced physical connectivity with India will be a boon. As for India, these rail links, the first ever between the two countries, will help it earn greater goodwill in Bhutan. This has become all the more imperative given China's rapacious presence in the region and its efforts to build deeper inroads into Bhutan despite the absence of formal diplomatic relations between Beijing and Thimphu.

With energy and power sector cooperation already a lynchpin of bilateral ties, the improved physical connectivity will be advantageous for both India and Bhutan. While a 20-km rail link will connect Banarhat in West Bengal to Bhutan's industrial town of Samtse, the other 69-km link will connect Kokrajhar in Assam to Gelephu in southern Bhutan, which is being promoted as a 'Mindfulness City' by Bhutanese king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. The Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) project aims to develop it as a special autonomous region that can catalyse the kingdom's economic growth.

Bhutan envisages the development of GMC as an economic hub where an international airport is also planned to drive the country's economic transformation. Bhutan also wants to have enhanced physical connectivity with India so that it can take advantage of its logistics network to promote trade and commerce. Both Samtse and Gelephu are located close to the Indian border and could be vital engines of growth for Bhutan's economy. GMC is already being showcased as an attractive destination for manufacturers and investors, given its proximity to India with its huge market. India, too, is hoping to reap economic benefits for the region where these two railway lines will be built.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 4,033 crore and will be funded entirely by India, with some money coming from the railways ministry's budget and the remaining from the external affairs ministry's allocation to Bhutan in its 13th Five-Year Plan (2024-29). Under it, India is to provide Bhutan with development support of Rs 10,000 crore, double the amount allocated under the 12th FYP (2018-2023). India has been Bhutan's largest development partner and funds its Five-Year Plans.

Given the strategic gains and the boost to bilateral trade India hopes to make through these rail links, it will consider this money well spent. India, however, will need to ensure these projects – slated to be completed in three to four years – do not suffer from cost or time overruns.

A neighbour looms

While India has been steadfast in its support for Bhutan against Chinese pressure tactics, driven in no small measure by its own security concerns, for Thimphu, it has been challenging to deal with Beijing's coercive tactics. In 2017, the Indian Army had intervened to stop road building by the Chinese People's Liberation Army on the Bhutanese territory of Doklam, which lies near the Sikkim-Bhutan-Tibet trijunction, leading to a 73-day troop stand-off. India did manage to stop the road construction towards its Jampheri ridge, which overlooks the highly vulnerable Siliguri Corridor or the so-called 'Chicken's Neck', but Chinese troops are now permanently stationed in north Doklam.

Bhutan, ever mindful of India's strategic interests, has been seeking to strike a fine balance between its two large neighbours. With an unsettled boundary with China and well acquainted with its hegemonistic ambitions, Bhutan cannot afford to antagonise the Chinese dragon beyond a point.

China and Bhutan have held 25 rounds of discussions so far to settle the territorial disputes, which include the Doklam plateau in the west and the Jakarlung and Pasamlung valleys in the north. Bhutan would like the boundary issue resolved as it simply cannot stand up to China's salami-slicing tactics, which have seen the latter continuing to build villages and settlements on what is the former's territory.

In the high-stakes battle for influence in Bhutan, India cannot afford to slacken its approach lest China make deeper inroads into the Himalayan nation, for this will only endanger India's own security interests. The announcement of the rail projects is a good move, but proper and timely execution is a strategic imperative.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

Fentanyl: Another bitter pill in India-US ties

SATISH JHA
DH NEWS SERVICE

President Donald Trump, on September 15, submitted to the United States Congress a list of 23 "major drug-transit or major illicit-drug-producing countries". India was on the list, along with four others from its neighbourhood – Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, and China. Earlier, on March 25, the Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community identified India, along with China, as a 'state actor' directly or indirectly enabling the drug traffickers.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid used as an analgesic and abused as a narcotic substance, has emerged as yet another irritant in the bilateral relations between New Delhi and Washington, in addition to Trump's tariff war, his repeated claims about brokering the India-Pakistan truce on May 10 and his bonhomie with the civil and military leadership of India's arch-rival Pakistan.

"China remains the primary source country for illicit fentanyl precursor chemicals and pill pressing equipment, followed by India," the March 2025 report by the Directorate of National Intelligence noted. Trump pointed out in his presidential determination that his administration was deploying unprecedented resources to deal with the 'national emergency' created by the "trafficking of fentanyl and other deadly illicit drugs into the US".

The US Department of Justice, on January 6, indicted Raxuter Chemicals Private Limited and Athos Chemicals Private Limited, both based in Surat, India, for criminal conspiracies to distribute and import fentanyl precursor chemicals to America. The indictment followed after the arrest of Bhavesh Lathiya, the founder of Raxuter Chemicals, in New York, following a sting operation by the US sleuths.

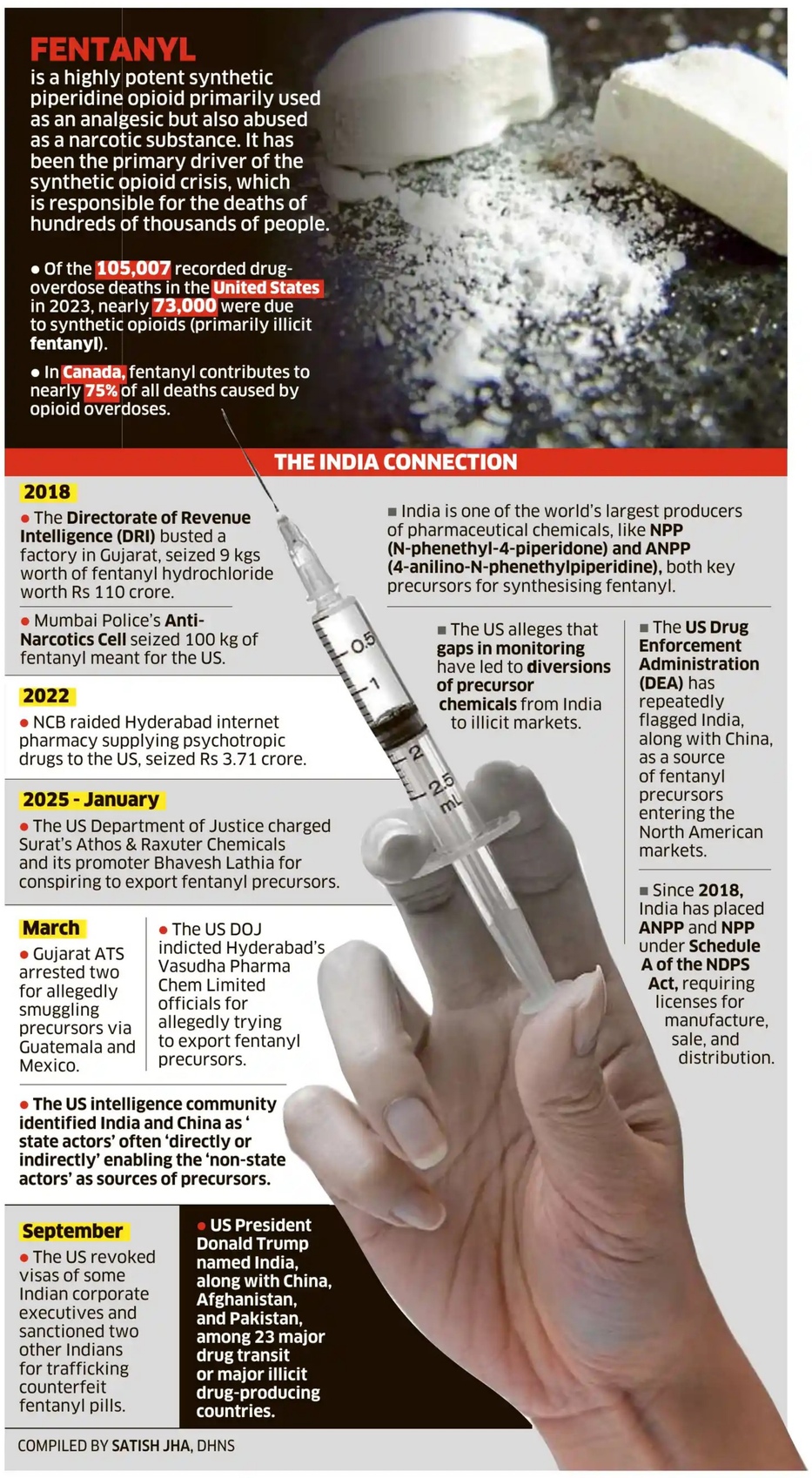
India's law enforcement agencies are also doing their bit to help the US counterparts to disrupt the supply chain of the fentanyl precursors. The Anti-Terrorism Squad of Gujarat Police, on March 18, arrested Satish Sutariya and Yuka Modi, who were partners in several pharmaceutical companies based in Surat, for trying to smuggle prohibited psychotropic substances, ANPP and NPP, to Mexico and Guatemala. Sutariya is alleged to be associated with Lathiya and a major partner in Athos Chemicals. He and Modi were charged with manufacturing and distributing fentanyl precursor chemicals for unlawful export to the US. They had allegedly tried to procure 30 kg of ANPP from Balakrishna Prasad Gauda, a sales and purchase manager of Amino Organics based in Hyderabad. They had shipped four consignments to Mexico, but all were seized by the US agencies. One consignment reached an agent in Guatemala. To evade detection, they declared the consignments as "Fish Collagen Peptides" and "Vitamin B7", the Gujarat ATS probe revealed.

Hyderabad-based Vasudha Pharma Chem Pvt Ltd came under the scanner of both the Gujarat ATS and the US agencies probing illegal smuggling of fentanyl precursors. The company's officials, Tanweer Ahmed Mohamed Hussain Parkar, Venkata Naga Madhusudhan Raju Manthena, and Krishna Vericharla, were charged in a federal court in Washington on March 20 for manufacturing a fentanyl precursor chemical for unlawful export to the US.

The US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), on September 24, sanctioned Sadiq Abbas Habib Sayyed and Khizar Mohammad Iqbal Shaikh of India. They were previously indicted in the US in September 2024 on narcotics-related charges. They worked with Dominican Republic- and U.S.-based narcotics traffickers to sell counterfeit pills to Americans, as discounted, legitimate pharmaceutical products, which were instead filled with illicit drugs like fentanyl, a fentanyl analogue, and methamphetamine. They have used encrypted messaging platforms to conduct their illegal business and market their product to victims. The OFAC also designated an India-based online pharmacy for its role in "these criminal operations".

A 2020 report by the US Drug Enforcement Administration noted that India was emerging as a source for finished fentanyl powder and fentanyl precursor chemicals.

What may worry New Delhi is that India had not been included as a source of illicit drug or precursor chemicals flowing into the US in 2023, but the 2024 Annual Threat Assessment report mentioned China as "primary source" and noted that "...Mexico-based TCOs (transnational criminal organisation) also are sourcing precursor chemicals to a lesser extent from other nations such as India."


FENTANYL
is a highly potent synthetic piperidine opioid primarily used as an analgesic but also abused as a narcotic substance. It has been the primary driver of the synthetic opioid crisis, which is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people.
• Of the 105,007 recorded drug-overdose deaths in the United States in 2023, nearly 73,000 were due to synthetic opioids (primarily illicit fentanyl).
• In Canada, fentanyl contributes to nearly 75% of all deaths caused by opioid overdoses.
THE INDIA CONNECTION
2018
• The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a factory in Gujarat, seized 9 kgs worth of fentanyl hydrochloride worth Rs 110 crore.
• Mumbai Police's Anti-Narcotics Cell seized 100 kg of fentanyl meant for the US.
2022
• NCB raided Hyderabad internet pharmacy supplying psychotropic drugs to the US, seized Rs 3.71 crore.
2025 - January
• The US Department of Justice charged Surat's Athos & Raxuter Chemicals and its promoter Bhavesh Lathia for conspiring to export fentanyl precursors.
March
• Gujarat ATS arrested two for allegedly smuggling precursors via Guatemala and Mexico.
• The US DOJ indicted Hyderabad's Vasudha Pharma Chem Limited officials for allegedly trying to export fentanyl precursors.
• The US intelligence community identified India and China as ' state actors' often 'directly or indirectly' enabling the 'non-state actors' as sources of precursors.
September
• The US revoked visas of some Indian corporate executives and sanctioned two other Indians for trafficking counterfeit fentanyl pills.
• US President Donald Trump named India, along with China, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, among 23 major drug transit or major illicit drug-producing countries.
■ India is one of the world's largest producers of pharmaceutical chemicals, like NPP (N-phenethyl-4-piperidone) and ANPP (4-anilino-N-phenethylpiperidine), both key precursors for synthesising fentanyl.
■ The US alleges that gaps in monitoring have led to diversions of precursor chemicals from India to illicit markets.
■ The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has repeatedly flagged India, along with China, as a source of fentanyl precursors entering the North American markets.
■ Since 2018, India has placed ANPP and NPP under Schedule A of the NDPS Act, requiring licenses for manufacture, sale, and distribution.
0.5
1
2
2.5
mL
COMPILED BY SATISH JHA, DHNS

Cooperation is critical

N RAMACHANDRAN AND ANJALI J

On a summer morning in 2022, two teenagers were found unconscious in their home in Columbus, Ohio. They had purchased online what they thought were prescription drugs, but which turned out to have been laced with fentanyl. Within minutes, both were gone – victims of an invisible chemical supply chain stretching across continents.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration seized more than 60 million fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills and nearly 8,000 pounds of fentanyl, equivalent to over 380 million lethal doses, in 2024.

The fentanyl crisis has emerged as the deadliest drug epidemic in US history, claiming tens of thousands of lives each year, and making it the leading driver of drug overdose deaths since 2018. Its low cost, ease of production, and the ability to ship lethal doses in small packages make it uniquely dangerous. Online pharmacies and dark-web transactions make the fight against fentanyl fundamentally different from past drug wars.

The President Donald Trump's administration launched a "Make America Fentanyl Free" campaign, and pressured China to schedule all fentanyl-related substances as controlled drugs. India has also been identified as a source of certain fentanyl precursors. The US has been in touch with India to tighten its NDPS Act for control and monitoring of precursor exports. The US also sanctioned some foreign nationals and firms in China, India and Mexico, having links to suspected illicit production and trafficking of fentanyl and its derivatives.

The focus of the US has been on border security and supply reduction, through disruption of transnational drug cartels, and sanctions against foreign actors. The menace, however, continues to rage. Perpetrators have simply shifted to unscheduled chemical variants. There is an increasing realisation that the crisis cannot be solved through enforcement alone, but requires a mix of international cooperation, domestic demand reduction, law, technology, regulation, and public health interventions.

India has a crucial role to play in the war against fentanyl. As the world's third-largest pharmaceutical producer, it has the dual responsibility of safeguarding its industry's reputation and preventing diversion of legitimate chemical products into illicit fentanyl production. Incidents of Indian exporters inadvertently supplying precursors later traced to Mexican labs highlight systemic vulnerabilities.

India must strengthen regulation by introducing stricter KYC and end-user verification for chemical buyers, moving beyond paper-based approvals to real-time digital monitoring. Periodical updating of schedules, enforcing "class-wide" controls on fentanyl analogues, and leveraging AI-driven track-and-trace systems are among the measures needed to make supply chains tamper-proof. Compulsory registration, payment gateway accountability, and enhanced cyber-forensics to track cryptocurrency payments are crucial.

It is important to ring-fence India-US counter-narcotics cooperation from the current stress in bilateral relations. The need of the hour is a proactive Bilateral Counter-Narcotics Task Force enabling seamless, real-time intelligence sharing, particularly on the financial networks and digital footprints of cartels.

Joint investigations are needed to target global smuggling chains, while the US expertise in cyber forensics and digital policing could strengthen India's regulatory capacity.

(N Ramachandran, a former Indian Police Service officer, retired as the Director General of Police of Meghalaya after a long and distinguished career in law enforcement. He is the founder and vice-chairman of the Indian Police Foundation. Anjali J is a senior researcher at the IPF. Views are personal.)

Conservation in India: Triumphs and trials

Habitat degradation, human–wildlife conflict, and weak enforcement are threatening Indian's progress in wildlife protection, writes B K Singh

As India celebrates its 71st National Wildlife Week (October 2-8), established to raise awareness about conservation, it is a fitting time to assess our progress. Our record is a mix of remarkable successes and persistent, systemic failures that threaten the very ecosystems we strive to protect.

India's forests cover about 76 million hectares out of 329 million hectares of land. Wildlife is not limited to forests—it is found across wetlands, river systems, grasslands, deserts, and coastal zones. To protect this diversity, the government has established 573 wildlife sanctuaries, covering 12.37 million hectares, and 107 national parks, which extend over 4.44 million hectares. The remaining 59 million hectares of natural forests, though not under formal protection, also hold rich wildlife populations. Forests and wildlife share a symbiotic relationship; neither can be sustained without the other.

The *State of Forest Report 2023* estimates India's forests store 7.2 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, up from 6.6 gigatonnes in 2015. Yet, India's Paris Climate Agreement commitment to create a carbon sink of 2.5–3 gigatonnes CO equivalent by 2030 is not on track. The degradation of forests, worsened by encroachment and missing boundary demarcations such as the 58% unmarked pillars reported in Mussoorie, reduces their ability to sequester carbon. Land grabs and habitat loss threaten both climate goals and the survival of species.

Balancing conservation and conflicts

Tigers, India's flagship species, remain central to conservation. Project Tiger, launched in 1973, marked its 50th year in 2023 at an international workshop inaugurated by the Prime Minister in Mysuru. Numbers that had once declined to below 1,000 in 2004 have since risen steadily: 1,411 in 2008, 1,706 in 2011, 2,226 in 2015, 2,967 in 2019, and 3,682 in 2023. While this recovery is commendable, the forest areas under tiger occupancy have shrunk across central India, Odisha, the Western Ghats, and the Northeast, pointing to a mismatch between growing tiger populations and shrinking ranges.

When tiger density exceeds the carrying capacity of available habitats, conflicts with humans rise. In the last five years, tigers have killed 395 people, including 15 in Karnataka. The inadequate restoration of habitats and wildlife corridors has worsened the situation. Recently, five tigers were poisoned in Karnataka's MM Hills Sanctuary after anti-poaching staff went unpaid and community engagement was neglected. Such lapses underline the urgent need for state departments to improve vigilance, habitat management, and dialogue with local communities.

The elephant, with an estimated wild population of nearly 30,000 in India, presents an even larger conflict challenge. In the last five years, 2,853 people were killed in elephant encounters, including 160 in Karnataka. Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh also reported high casualties. Karnataka, Assam, and West Bengal each hold approximately 6,000 elephants, while Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh collectively support around 12,000.

Elephants routinely migrate in search of food, shelter, and water. Expanding highways, rail lines, and incompatible cropping patterns on forest fringes increasingly force them into human settlements. Farmers, in retaliation, often electrify fields or fire weapons, killing elephants. Train collisions are also frequent in Odisha, Assam, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.

While the Forest and Railway ministries have collaborated on measures such as speed restrictions and wildlife overpasses, these initiatives have yet to deliver consistent results. The use of captive elephants in noisy public processions or ceremonies remains another risk, as even trained animals can panic and cause fatalities.

Projects to save the endangered

Idnia's wildlife policy has experimented with ambitious species recovery projects that go beyond tigers and elephants. In 2020, India initiated 'Project Cheetah' to reintroduce an extinct species through translocation from Namibia and South Africa to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park. Since then, 17 cubs have been born in India, marking an early milestone. Although only the Iranian subspecies of the Asiatic cheetah survives in the wild today, the African cheetah has been establishing a foothold in Kuno. The recent release of female cheetah Dheera into the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary is seen as a symbolic expansion.

To safeguard aquatic ecosystems, the government launched Project Dolphin, targeting both riverine and marine dolphin species. The Gangetic dolphin, in particular, has been recognised as an indicator of ecosystem health. Monitoring progress under *Namami Gange* depends heavily on tracking dolphin populations and river pollution across different stretches.

India has also drawn attention to fragile Himalayan landscapes through Project Snow Leopard. Over the past five years, the Wildlife Institute of India has monitored populations across high-mountain habitats, as snow leopards signal the ecological resilience of watersheds crucial to millions of downstream users. With glacial bursts and accelerated snowmelt increasingly impacting hilly regions, the conservation of high-altitude species has become as much a matter of climate adaptation as it is an ecological stewardship.

India's wildlife achievements—rebounding tiger numbers, elephant protection programmes, and reintroduction of cheetahs—sit uncomfortably alongside continuing habitat degradation, rising human–wildlife conflict, and weak enforcement. As National Wildlife Week reminds us, conserving forests, species, and landscapes is no longer just an ecological obligation but a resilience strategy for a warming, insecure planet.

(The author is a retired Indian Forest Service official and a science communicator)

DID YOU KNOW?

Making eggs out of human skin cells

Scientists have successfully created human egg cells from skin cells and fertilised them to form early-stage embryos—a major breakthrough in reproductive medicine and fertility treatment. The technique, called somatic cell nuclear transfer, involves transferring the nucleus from a skin cell into a donor egg, which is then induced to discard extra chromosomes through a new process called "mitomeiosis". This process enables the cells to fertilise and develop into embryos, offering hope for people who cannot use their own eggs.

The process, fraught with safety concerns, involves removing the nucleus from a woman's skin cell and inserting it into an egg, or oocyte, from which the nucleus has been removed, scientists detailed in *Nature Communications*.

The work draws on cloning pioneered in the 1990s at the Roslin Institute in Scotland. A team led by the late Ian Wilmut used somatic cell nuclear transfer to create Dolly, the sheep. The process involved plucking the nucleus from an adult sheep cell and placing it into a sheep egg that had its own nucleus removed. The resulting egg was carried to term in Dolly's surrogate mother.

Researchers from Oregon Health & Science University took a similar approach by collecting skin cells from women and removing the nucleus. The nucleus contains the 46 chromosomes that carry approximately 20,000 genes. Each skin cell nucleus was placed in a healthy donor egg that had its own nucleus removed.

Eggs contain 23 chromosomes needed for human development, which is half the usual number, and the sperm that fertilises the egg will contribute the other 23 chromosomes. But skin cells and other non-reproductive cells—and any cells generated from them—contain two sets of human chromosomes, a total of 46.

Researchers claim to have solved the problem of the extra set of chromosomes by inducing a process they call mitomeiosis, which mimics natural cell division and causes one set of chromosomes to be discarded, leaving a functional egg.

In one experiment, the researchers fertilised 82 functional modified eggs in test tubes using sperm. Only about 9% of the fertilised eggs developed to the blastocyst stage of embryo development, the point at which embryos consisting of 70 to 200 cells are transferred to the uterus during in-vitro fertilisation treatments. None of the blastocysts were cultured beyond this point.

Most of the eggs created via mitomeiosis did not progress beyond the 4- to 8-cell stage after fertilisation and displayed chromosomal abnormalities. As the success rate in the study was low, the prospect of putting all this to clinical use remains distant. The researchers say that at least a decade of research is needed before safe clinical trials can be conducted.

- Surendra Pai

NHAI to install QR code with project info of National Highways

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will soon install project information signboards with quick response (QR) codes along the National Highway stretches, which will provide relevant information and emergency and utilities services helpline numbers to commuters.

"The vertical QR Code Sign Boards will provide project-specific information, including National Highway number, Highway chainage, project length, construction/maintenance periods, Contact numbers for Highway Patrol, Toll Manager, Project Manager, Resident Engineer, Emergency Helpline 1033, NHAI field office," the NHAI statement said.

It will also provide details about nearby facilities like hospitals, petrol pumps, toilets, police stations, restaurants, distance to toll plaza, truck lay-bye, and puncture repair shop and vehicle service stations/electric vehicle charging stations, etc, the statement said.

These signboards will be placed near wayside amenities, rest areas, toll plazas, truck lay-byes, highway start/end points, and signage.

Army chief warns Pak: 'If you want to remain on the map...'

Gen Dwivedi says India will not show restraint next time

Chief of Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi interacts with troops during a visit to a border area in Rajasthan on Friday. PTI

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In yet another stern message to Pakistan, Chief of the Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Friday warned Islamabad to stop sponsoring terrorism in India or risk losing its "geographical presence", as India would not show any restraint if there were to be an Operation Sindoor 2.0.

"India is fully prepared this time. And this time, we will not show the restraint that we showed in Operation Sindoor 1.0. We will take a step forward and act in a manner that will make Pakistan reconsider whether it wants to remain on the world map or not," Gen Dwivedi said, addressing soldiers at Anupgarh in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar district.

This comes a day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that any misadventure by Pakistan in the Sir Creek sector in Gujarat would invite an Indian reaction so strong and decisive that it would change "both history and geography".

Gen Dwivedi visited Bikaner Military Station to review the operational preparedness of the formation and spoke to troops deployed at forward locations. He was also briefed on operational matters, technology infusion and integration with other security agencies.

Urging the soldiers to stay prepared, Gen Dwivedi said the restraint shown by New Delhi during Operation Sindoor would not be repeated in any future military conflict. "Keep yourselves fully prepared now; if god wills, the opportunity will come soon," he said.

At a media interaction in Delhi, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh noted that India began Operation Sindoor with "clear objectives" and terminated the military action in time once those objectives were met. "This is something the world needs to learn from us."

Terror evidence

The army chief said India provided evidence to the world about the presence of terrorist hideouts in Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Had India not unearthed this evidence, Pakistan would have concealed it, he said.

"The entire world stood with India when it launched Operation Sindoor in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam attack. The Indian military struck nine targets inside Pakistan during the operation, seven by the army and two by the air force," Gen Dwivedi said.

"We identified specific targets because we intended only to harm terrorists and aimed to strike their bases. We have no complaints against ordinary Pakistani citizens. Since terrorists were being sponsored, those terrorist targets were hit," he added.

'Must be held accountable': India over Pakistan's crackdown on protesters in PoK

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Friday slammed Pakistan for its crackdown on protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and said the neighbouring country must be held accountable for its "horrific" human rights violations.

At least 10 people were killed and many injured during the protests and violent clashes in PoK in the last few days.

The protesters are demanding basic rights, justice and an end to what they described as "systemic oppression".

"We have seen reports on protests in several areas of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including brutalities by Pakistani forces on innocent civilians," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We believe that it is a natural consequence of Pakistan's oppressive approach and its systemic plundering of resources from these territories, which remain under its forcible and illegal occupation," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to a question at his weekly media briefing. "Pakistan must be held accountable for its horrific human rights violations," he said.

RANDHIR JAISWAL
MEA official

"We believe that it is a natural consequence of Pakistan's oppressive approach and its systemic plundering of resources from these territories.

Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh have always been and will remain an "integral part" of India, Jaiswal said.

On Friday, a group of negotiators deputed by Pakistan's federal government held talks with representatives of Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC).

The talks between the JAAC and representatives of the federal and PoK governments broke down last week.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has said it is "deeply alarmed by the ongoing violence" in PoK. "We strongly condemn the use of excessive force and the deaths of civilians and law enforcers alike, as well as communication blackouts," it posted on X.

India receives Social Security Association Award 2025

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Friday became the fifth country to receive the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award, according to an official statement.

The country received the award for outstanding achievement in the area of social security, the Ministry of Labour & Employment statement said.

Being the fifth recipient of this award since its inception, India joins the list of leading countries across the globe in the field of social protection coverage, it said.

The ISSA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Social Security is presented every three years at the World Social Security Forum (WSSF).

"The award is a testament to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said while receiving the award on behalf of the Government of India in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

India's social security coverage has increased to 64.3% in 2025 from 19% in 2015, Mandaviya, said.

Teen daughter was asked for nude pic online: Akshay Kumar

MUMBAI, DHNS: Actor Akshay Kumar on Friday shared a disturbing real-life incident involving his 13-year-old daughter being asked for nude pictures while she was playing online video game.

Akshay shared it to highlight importance of exercising caution due to the rise in internet-related offences.

Akshay Kumar's admission came before Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who is also the state Home Minister, Director General of Police Rashmi Shukla, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Iqbal Singh Chahal and the top police brass and actress Rani Mukherjee during the inauguration of launch of Cyber Awareness Month October 2025 in Mumbai at the state police headquarters.

The incident involving the minor daughter of Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna happened a few months back.

"Our children should learn... every week for standards seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth standards, there should be a period called cyber period where children should be explained about it," the veteran actor said.

Wangchuk's wife moves SC against his detention

Questions the slapping of NSA against activist

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Activist Sonam Wangchuk's wife, Gitanjali J Angmo, has filed a plea in the Supreme Court challenging her husband's detention under the National Security Act following the violent clashes in Ladakh last week.

Sonam Wangchuk

Wangchuk is held at the Jodhpur Central Jail in Rajasthan under the stringent law.

Angmo filed a habeas corpus petition on Thursday under Article 32 of the Constitution, claiming that her husband's detention is illegal.

The plea has made the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ladakh UT administration, Deputy Commissioner of Leh and Jodhpur jail Superintendent as parties.

It has also sought a direction to them to "allow immediate access of the petitioner to her husband, both telephonic and in person".

The activist was arrested on September 26 after the protests which erupted in the Ladakh Union Territory over the demand for statehood for the region.

During the agitation, security forces had allegedly opened fire on the protesters, leading to four deaths.

In her petition, Angmo questioned the slapping of NSA against her husband as she claimed that his "arrest was illegal and in violation of rules".

She stated that there had been no contact with her husband following his arrest.

The Supreme Court is currently on vacation due to the Dussehra break and is scheduled to reopen on October 6.

Judicial panel to monitor probe in Zubeen's death case

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A day after the CID in Assam imposed murder charge on Zubeen Garg's manager and festival organiser, the Gauhati High Court on Friday approved a request for a Judicial Commission to monitor the investigation into the circumstances leading to the sudden death of the iconic singer.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said the judicial commission headed by Justice Soumitra Saikia will be formed on Saturday to ensure proper investigation and justice to the iconic singer.

Sarma also informed that the report of the post-mortem conducted on Garg's body in Singapore was handed over to his wife, Garima, and the report of the second post-mortem conducted in Gauhati Medical College Hospital will also be handed over to her on Saturday.

"It is up to Garima whether she wants to make the report public or not. We will also submit the reports to the court here," Sarma said in a video on Facebook.

14 days' remand

Meanwhile, a Guwahati court remanded two of Zubeen's band members, musician Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and singer Amritprabha Mahanta, to 14 days of custody of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case.

The two, who accompanied Zubeen on a yacht when the incident took place, were arrested on Thursday following interrogation by the SIT.

Zubeen Garg

Goswami had earlier claimed that Garg's body parts had turned blue soon after he drowned while swimming in the sea. This raised suspicion over the cause of the singer's death, following which the Assam government conducted the second post-mortem on his body hours before his cremation on September 23.

"They will be interrogated properly so that we can reach a logical conclusion," MP Gupta, the special director general of police, CID, who leads the SIT, told reporters on Friday.

Zubeen's manager, Siddharth Sharma and Shyamkanu Mahanta, the organiser of the Northeast Festival in Singapore, were earlier remanded to 14 days of police custody.

Organiser moves SC for transfer of probe to CBI or NIA

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Shyamkanu Mahanta, the organiser of the North East India Festival and an accused in the death of singer Zubeen Garg, has approached the Supreme Court seeking transfer of the probe to the NIA or the CBI.

Assam's CID arrested Mahanta on Wednesday in the case of the death of the singer in Singapore on September 19.

His plea contended he was a victim of a well-calculated witch-hunt involving irresponsible media reports, both print and electronic, which sought to create a false narrative with regard to his alleged involvement in "the sad and unfortunate demise" of Garg.

"The allegations are ludicrous, to say the least, as the petitioner, who was the event organiser of a festival to be held on September 19 -21, in Singapore, was not even present at the place of occurrence of the unfortunate demise," it said.

He sought a direction to appoint a retired Supreme Court judge to supervise and monitor the probe into the matter.

Nod for 11 animal-based crop biostimulants withdrawn

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The agriculture ministry has withdrawn approval granted for 11 biostimulants derived from animal sources after Hindu and Jain communities raised ethical and religious concerns.

The products, made from animal-based protein hydrolysate, were previously cleared for use on crops, including paddy, chili, tomato, cotton, cucumber, soybean, grapes, and green gram, based on approval from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The animal sources they rely on include bovine hide, hair, and tanned skin; chicken feathers; pig tissue; skin, bones, and scales of cod; and a variety of sardines.

"These 11 biostimulants were approved earlier and were selling in the market. They are now withheld due to ethical, religious, and dietary concerns raised by different communities," said an official in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Insisting that the ICAR gave an approval purely based on technical clearance in terms of high yields, the official said that the biostimulants will remain suspended until proper pre-harvest interval data is generated when the products are used as foliar spray.

Before 2021, biostimulants were sold freely in India with no specific rules governing their sale.

In 2021, the government brought them under the Fertiliser Control Order (FCO), which meant companies had to register products, effectiveness, and compliance with testing protocols, including multi-dose field trials, toxicity, and chemical analysis.

Only products approved in Schedule VI of the FCO can be manufactured, imported, or marketed legally.

Provisional registrations were phased out by mid-2025, enforcing permanent registration compliance.

Biostimulants are substances, microorganisms, or a combination of both that enhance plant growth, health, and productivity by stimulating natural processes within the plant. This process can lead to higher yields and improved crop quality.

Unlike fertilisers, biostimulants work by enhancing the plant's own functions, not by directly providing nutrients. Unlike pesticides, it does not control pests.

Rajasthan halts distribution of Kaysons Pharma medicines

JAIPUR, PTI: The Rajasthan government on Friday suspended the state drug controller and halted the distribution of medicines manufactured by Jaipur-based company Kaysons Pharma, officials said.

The Medical and Health Department stopped the supply of all 19 medicines manufactured by Kaysons Pharma until further orders, they said. Distribution of all other cough syrups containing Dextromethorphan has also been suspended.

The government has placed drug controller Rajaram Sharma under suspension for allegedly influencing the process of determining drug standards, the department said.

This comes amid reports of deaths of 11 children, nine in Madhya Pradesh and two in Rajasthan, allegedly linked to contaminated cough syrup.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma has ordered a probe into the matter. Following his instructions, an expert committee is being constituted to investigate the issue.

Officials added that drugs that are potentially harmful to children and pregnant women will now carry clear warning labels.

Cough syrup contamination not behind MP, Raj child deaths: Health Ministry

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Health Ministry on Friday ruled out toxic contamination of cough syrups as the reason for deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, as initially suspected, but maintained that investigations were on to determine the cause.

Medicine samples collected by the official probe team were tested for common contaminants like diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol (EG). "None of the samples contained DEG or EG. The MP State Food and Drug Administration also tested three samples and confirmed the absence of DEG/EG," said a Health Ministry official here.

"While toxic contaminants have been ruled out, further tests are being conducted by the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, for common pathogens. One case has been found positive for leptospirosis. Samples of water, entomological vectors, and respiratory specimens are under further investigation by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, NIV, and other labs," said the official.

DGHS advisory

The Health Ministry's Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) issued an advisory to all states and Union Territories on Friday on cough syrups in the paediatric population, strictly advising against their use in children aged below two. They are also not recommended for kids below five.

This comes after the death of seven children — all under five — in MP's Chhindwara district and two more in Rajasthan's Sikar and Bharatpur districts in September.

Suspecting contamination of two common cough syrups given to kids, the Chhindwara administration banned their sale across the district and issued an advisory to parents, doctors, and medicine shops.

Modi to unveil initiatives worth over Rs 62,000 cr for youth; Bihar in focus

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil various youth-focused initiatives worth more than Rs 62,000 crore on Saturday, his office said, billing the exercise as a initiative for youth development which will give a decisive push to education, skilling and entrepreneurship.

The PMO said Modi will launch PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs), a centrally sponsored scheme with an investment of Rs 60,000 crore.

The scheme envisages the upgradation of 1,000 government ITIs in a hub-and-spoke model comprising 200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke ITIs.

In the first phase of the scheme implementation there will be special focus on ITIs in Patna and Darbhanga in Bihar, the statement added. He will also inaugurate 1,200 vocational skill labs established in 400 Navodaya Vidyalayas and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across 34 states and Union Territories.

Narendra Modi

Modi will launch Bihar's revamped "Mukhyamantri Nishchay Svyam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana", under which nearly five lakh graduates every year will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 1,000 for two years, along with free skill training. He will also launch the redesigned Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme, which will provide interest-free education loans of up to Rs 4 lakh.

Bihar Yuva Ayog, a statutory commission for people between the ages of 18 and 45, will be formally inaugurated by Modi to channelise and harness potential of the state's young population, it said.

UP doctor refuses to treat pregnant Muslim woman

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In a shocking incident, a doctor at a hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur district refused to treat a pregnant Muslim woman, allegedly because of her religion.

"She is a Muslim... I won't treat her... Take her elsewhere," the lady doctor allegedly told the attendants of the expectant woman.

The woman, identified as Shama Parveen, was brought to the district women's hospital on the night of September 30.

Shama's husband, Mohammed Nawaz, said that he requested the lady doctor on duty to check her, but the latter allegedly refused.

"Don't bring her to the OT... She is Muslim... I won't treat her," the doctor, who could not be identified, said, according to Nawaz.

A video purportedly showing Shama saying that the lady doctor refused to treat her and another woman, who was also a Muslim, while she treated the other patients, went viral on social media platforms on Friday.

As the video went viral, senior district health officials took cognisance of the matter and sought an explanation from the lady doctor.

JUMBO PROBLEM

Climate change driving Asian elephants into habitat crisis: Study

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Asian elephant populations in India and Sri Lanka are facing a habitat gridlock due to climate and land-use changes, which are shifting elephant ranges eastward but with limited connectivity. This is escalating human-elephant conflicts, according to a report of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

Warming, extreme weather events and shifting water systems are affecting migratory species worldwide, altering ranges, shrinking habitats and threatening ecosystem services, the CMS report said. It detailed how climate disruption is increasingly impacting migratory wildlife.

Cold-adapted species such as musk deer, pheasants and snow trout are being pushed upslope into smaller, fragmented refugia, with some small mammals projected to lose over 50% of their range, a press statement noted.

The CMS workshop's report highlights how migratory species serve as critical links in ecosystems that sustain human life. From forest elephants that enhance carbon storage in jungles, to whales that transport essential nutrients across ocean basins, migratory species are vital in maintaining healthy ecosystems that are resilient and contribute to climate change mitigation. However, because such species rely on habitats spanning continents and seasons, environmental changes in one region can trigger cascading effects thousands of miles away.

"Migratory animals are the planet's early-warning system and they are in trouble," said Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary.

"From monarch butterflies vanishing from our gardens to whales veering off course in warming seas, these travellers are sending us a clear signal," she added.

"The world's migratory species face increasingly formidable challenges from habitat deterioration and overexploitation. Climate change compounds these problems, with greater extremes in weather affecting habitats and food resources, ecosystem services such as carbon capture, and the ranges migratory species occupy," said Dr Des Thompson, CMS COP-appointed Scientific Councillor for Climate Change.

Warming, extreme weather events and shifting water systems are affecting migratory species worldwide. AFP FILE

UPSC to publish provisional answer key after prelims

To finalise it only after inviting objections and representations from candidates, SC told

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) informed the Supreme Court that it has decided to publish the provisional answer key after the preliminary test in the Civil Services Examinations and will finalise it only after inviting objections and representations from candidates, which will then be reviewed by a team of subject experts.

In an affidavit, the constitutional body said, "The finalised answer key by the team of subject/discipline experts shall constitute the basis for the declaration of the results of the preliminary examination. The final answer key shall be published after the declaration of the final results."

The UPSC said it has made a conscious and well-considered decision in this regard and intends to implement these modalities as expeditiously as possible.

Public interest

The decision taken by the UPSC is considered an effective and adequate redressal of the grievances raised in the petition, enhancing transparency in its functioning and furthering the cause of public interest, the response said.

The UPSC said it would publish the provisional answer key after the preliminary examination is conducted.

"Representations/objections will be sought from the candidates who appeared in the examination. Each representation/objection should be supported by three authoritative sources. Objections that are not so supported should be rejected at the threshold. However, the commission will decide whether the sources produced are authoritative or not," it said.

The provisional answer key, along with objections and representations received from candidates regarding the question paper and answer keys, will be submitted to a team of experts from the concerned discipline or subject. This team will conduct an in-depth review of all aspects and finalise the answer keys, it added.

The Union Public Service Commission's response came in a writ petition filed by Himanshu Kumar and others in 2024. The court had earlier appointed senior advocate Jaydeep Gupta as amicus curiae in the matter.

Centre notifies draft rules for online gaming regulation

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Friday issued draft rules under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Act 2025, which proposed setting up the Online Gaming Authority of India, chaired by the Ministry of Electronics and IT, to drive e-sports, digital social games and real money game ban.

The chairperson of Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) will be in the rank of the Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) or a joint secretary in the absence of an additional secretary.

The draft rules empower the Authority to categorise and register games, inquire into complaints, impose penalties, and coordinate with financial institutions and law enforcement agencies for enforcement. Online gaming service providers will be required to obtain certificates of registration for e-sports and social games, which will be valid for up to five years.

For consumer protection, the draft rules mandate grievance redressal mechanisms at three levels: the level of gaming service providers, with appeals to the Grievance Appellate Committee, and further recourse to the Online Gaming Authority. The rules also lay down procedures for cancellation or suspension of registration in cases of non-compliance, false disclosures, or if a game is found to involve money wagering. The authority will approve the e-sports and online social games that can be legally played in the country as well as cancel or suspend registration of any online social game or e-sport if found in violation of the Act.

The draft proposes recognition and promotion of e-sports under the PROG Act to be administered by the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry and provisions relating to promotion of online social games shall be administered by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Tirupati on high alert after bomb threats

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Tirupati police remained on high alert on Friday following bomb threats, with bomb disposal teams conducting extensive inspections across multiple locations, including Tirumala.

The District SP office and Chief Minister's Office received threatening emails alleging a conspiracy involving ISI and former LTTE militants based in Tamil Nadu to detonate RDX explosives at four locations in Tirupati.

The terrorist bomb threats have caused panic among devotees. Police immediately heightened security measures after receiving two suspicious emails from unknown individuals. They conducted thorough security checks at several key locations, including the RTC bus stand, Srinivasam, Kapilatheertham, and Govindarajula Swamy temple. Inspections also extended to judges' residential complexes and court premises.

With Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu scheduled to visit Tirupati on October 6, security measures were further intensified. Specialised bomb detection squads inspected the Agriculture College helipad, Tiruchanur Padmavathi Ammavari temple, and Srikalahasti temples.

The subject of the email read "LTTE-Pakistan ISI Nexus in Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. 4 RDX IEDs to detonate in Hon. CM Chandrababu Naidu House/Tirupati soon. Evacuate CM/Devotees ASAP!" The mail was sent from one Sabarisan. Vedamurthy@outlook.com.

HC rejects Anil Ambani's plea against SBI loan 'fraud' tag

MUMBAI, DHNS

In a setback to Industrialist Anil Ambani, the Bombay High Court has dismissed his petition against the decision of the State Bank of India (SBI) declaring his and Reliance Communications' loan accounts as fraud.

Rejecting the petition, a division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Neela Gokhale said there was no merit in the plea. The account was related to Reliance Communications, which is under insolvency. In June 2025, the SBI had classified the accounts as fraud, alleging misappropriation of funds by entering into transactions that violated the terms of loans extended by it.

Ambani's legal team has argued procedural unfairness; however, the court upheld SBI's action.

Besides, the SBI also informed the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and initiated steps to approach the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The Reliance Group has argued that the SBI did not follow the principles of natural justice as it did not grant an audience to the industrialist before classifying his account as fraudulent.

Meanwhile, the bank has lodged a complaint with the CBI, which searched premises linked to Reliance Communications and Ambani's residence. The CBI said it had registered a complaint after the SBI claimed a loss of Rs 2,929.05 crore resulting from alleged misappropriation by Reliance Communications and Ambani.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I JUST KNOW THE BOSS HAS FIGURED OUT I'M PLAYING HOOKY TODAY!
HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT?
CALL IT A GUT FEELING
BUMSTEAD GET TO WORK!!!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

HEY, MANAGER, I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU THAT I HATE LOSING ALL THE TIME
LOSING ALWAYS BOTHERS ME, TOO, LUCY
FORGET THE LOSING...
I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU!

Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

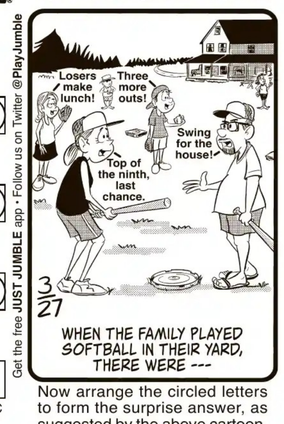
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IWFST

NHEOP

NTMAED

OMEBNA


Losers make lunch!
Three more outs!
Swing for the house!
Top of the ninth, last chance.
3/27
WHEN THE FAMILY PLAYED SOFTBALL IN THEIR YARD, THERE WERE ---

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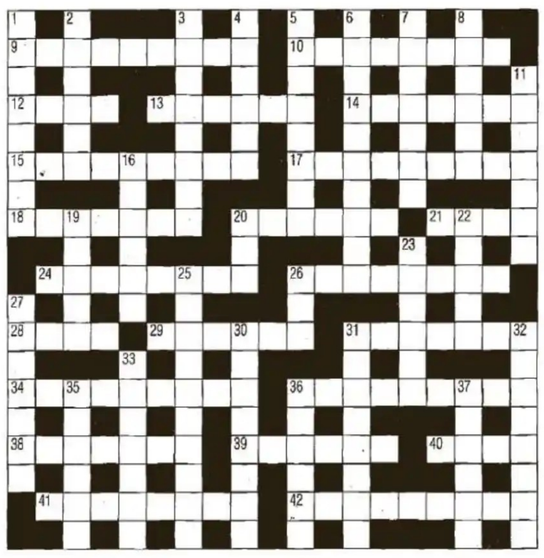
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANKLE GUEST POROUS STURDY
Answer: The circle said goodbye to the other circle by saying — SEE YOU AROUND

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4008



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 Tests the microphone when one cajoles? (5,4)
10 Wrench from the reckless youngster (8)
12 Little bit of the first half of the alphabet (4)
13 Ready to go walkies when you lure into trouble? (4,2)
14 Drew into conversation, as promised (7)
15 If lacking in potential, it's improbable (3,6)
17 The carpet is to take across to the church (9)
18 Cool out and it's the end of August (7)
20 Mother used to work in it with this awful ugly woman (6)
21 Rushes back to give it a whirl (4)
24 From now on a shade retiring and I'm not surprised (2,6)
26 Strange characteristic (8)
28 The thing was presented to one on return (4)
29 A drink that's lacking in body? (6)
31 Offering to be there (7)
34 Finds, when one cancels the insurance on? (9)
36 As the exhausted musician is? (6,3)
38 Giving bad tips causes resentment (7)
39 Call on and see round, with one's relations (4,2)
40 Man the worm doesn't like to see approaching it! (4)
41 Is not sprinkled on the dry parts (8)
42 Do business with, but clearly feel superior to (9)

DOWN
1 Clasped one tightly, but it was not natural (8)
2 "Virtually the last resort," the doctor interposed (6)
3 Return at one ten, prepared to take a break (8)
4 How you said "Close that window, I'm freezing"? (6)
5 Level with the post (8)
6 What you were singing in the shower? (5,5)
7 Catching and sacking? (7)
8 Tense, you say, when under instruction (6)
11 Loving to make a fuss when you call on (7)
16 Squabbling with somebody while queuing? (2,1,3)
19 Quite a few are scratch (5)
20 The rampant animal does detract from the beauty (3)
22 Even providing transport (5)
23 Sounds like a support claim (6)
25 Does it make a dent in the good weather chart? (10)
26 A knock and an answer to "Who's there?" (3)
27 The wagtail? (4,3)
30 Clearly anxious, on finding the balance reduced (8)
31 They play in Spain, as arranged, first (8)
32 Packed it all in is what it amounted to (8)
33 Mean to cheat over money (7)
35 When there's sun, habitually will thaw (6)
36 Quick!Tell me what to say! (6)
37 I ring haphazardly round first, as a beginning (6)

ACROSS
9 Emergency vehicle (9)
10 Strategic (8)
12 Eye part (4)
13 Choose (6)
14 European language (7)
15 Forgetful (9)
17 Octopus' limblike organs (9)
18 Obvious (7)
20 Whispering or rubbing sound (6)
21 Healthy (4)
24 Refused (8)
26 Abnormal (8)
28 Routine (4)
29 Change (6)
31 Idle talk (7)
34 French cheese (9)
36 Flower (9)
38 Plead (7)
39 Cashier (6)
40 Loosen (4)
41 Famous (8)
42 Remove (9)

DOWN
1 Forbearance (8)
2 Receding (6)
3 Fascination (8)
4 Proper (6)
5 Laws (8)
6 Film script (10)
7 Sketch (7)
8 Of a people (6)
11 Prickly plant (7)
16 Models (6)
19 Sluggish (5)
20 Free (3)
22 Precise (5)
23 Optical illusion (6)
25 Sickening (10)
26 Wonder (3)
27 Fern (7)
30 Height (8)
31 Pitiful (8)
32 Worker (8)
33 Ruler (7)
35 Substance (6)
36 Projectile (6)
37 Swindler, informally (3,3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12259

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Scots 6, Aunts 9, We-stern 10, Cub-it 11, C-inch 12, Tight 13, Dis-C-ern 15, Sea 17, Inch 18, B-re-ath 19, Spurs 20, Acorns 22, Cuba 24, Nap 25, Swarmed 26, Spoon 27, S-too-p 28, Earth 29, Heaters 30, Prior 31, Retry.
DOWN: 2, Co-US-in 3,Twit-CH 4, Set 5, Sta-I-n 6, Archers 7, Unit 8,Ticket 12,Trips 13, D-Ivan 14, Scoop 15, S-arum 16, A-head 18, Brown 19, Snapper 21, Castor 22, Cr.-ease 23, Better 25, S-OO-ty 26, So-ho. 28, Err.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Abuts 6, Douse 9, Rancour 10, Clout 11, Ranch 12, Rural 13, Lobster 15, Bog 17, Item 18, Allure 19, Slime 20, Hearty 22, Peru 24,Tun 25, Endures 26, Dread 27, Herod 28, Aisle 29, Poetess 30, Harem 31, Shade.
DOWN: 2, Ballot 3,Truism 4, Sat 5, Scour 6, Durable 7, Oral 8, Sector 12, Reply 13, Light 14, Began 15, Buyer 16, Genus 18, Amend 19, Stardom 21, Eureka 22, Punish 23, Reeled 25, Earth 26, Dope 28, Ass.

◆SU-DO-KU-6717◆

	4		6					
		9		4				8
	1			5	9	3		4
		4					6	9
8	6					1		
4		6	7	8			2	
1				3		7		
					5		9	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6716

9	5	1	8	2	4	6	7	3
3	2	6	9	7	1	8	4	5
4	7	8	5	6	3	1	2	9
1	6	4	3	9	2	7	5	8
2	8	5	1	4	7	3	9	6
7	3	9	6	5	8	4	1	2
8	4	3	2	1	9	5	6	7
5	9	7	4	8	6	2	3	1
6	1	2	7	3	5	9	8	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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C3	D2	A1	A1	A1	L1	U1	2nd Letter Triple	RACK 1
L1	B3	Y4	U1	T1	L1	N1		RACK 2
I1	T1	D2	S1	E1	U1	U1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
O1	P3	C3	R1	I1	T1	O1		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 135-145
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	E1	N1	S1	O1	R1	Y4	RACK 1	= 70
L1	E1	N1	T1	I1	L1		RACK 2	= 6
B3	E1	N1	E1	F4	I1	T1	RACK 3	= 86
B3	A1	L1	L1	O1	T1		RACK 4	= 11

PAR SCORE 110-120 JUDD'S TOTAL 173

HITORI-3171

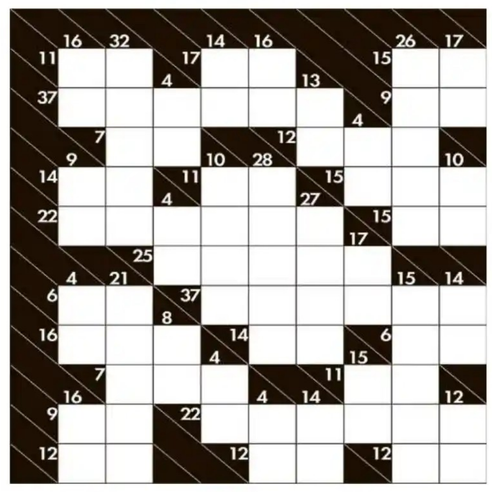
1	7	7	3	5	7	2	7
3	2	7	4	8	6	5	1
7	1	4	7	7	3	7	2
6	4	2	5	2	7	3	1
2	8	1	7	3	7	4	5
2	8	1	6	4	5	1	2
8	7	3	1	7	2	7	4
7	5	7	8	2	4	6	7

SOLUTION TO 3170

■	7	6	5	■	2	4	8
6	8	■	1	2	7	5	■
■	6	1	7	■	8	■	5
1	■	5	■	3	6	7	2
4	2	■	6	1	■	3	7
■	5	7	■	8	4	1	■
2	3	■	4	■	1	8	6
■	1	8	2	7	5	■	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3171



SOLUTION TO 3170

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3695

8	1				2	6	9	■
	■	2				7	■	
		■	3	1		■	5	
6	4		■		■			
2				■		8		
5			■		■			
		■	1			■		5
3	■	9			6		■	
■						2		6

SOLUTION TO 3694

5	8	3	1	6	4	2	7	9
4	2	9	5	7	8	3	1	6
1	7	6	9	2	3	8	4	5
6	4	1	8	9	2	7	5	3
8	9	7	6	3	5	4	2	1
3	5	2	4	1	7	9	6	8
9	3	5	7	4	6	1	8	2
2	6	4	3	8	1	5	9	7
7	1	8	2	5	9	6	3	4

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump sets Sunday deadline for Hamas to agree to peace deal

US Prez's plan will end fighting and secure release of all hostages

DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP), AP/PTI

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that Hamas must agree to a proposed peace deal by Sunday evening, threatening an even greater military onslaught nearly two years into the war sparked by the October 7 attack on Israel.

Trump appears keen to deliver on pledges to end the war and secure the return of dozens of hostages ahead of the second anniversary of the attack on Tuesday.

His peace plan has been accepted by Israel and welcomed internationally, but key mediators Egypt and Qatar, and at least one Hamas official, have said some elements require further negotiation.

"An Agreement must be reached with Hamas by Sunday Evening at SIX (6) P.M., Washington, DC time," Trump wrote Friday on social media.

"Every Country has signed on! If this last chance agreement is not reached, all hell, like no one has ever seen before, will break out against Hamas. There will be peace in the Middle East one way or the other."

A pro-Palestinian demonstrator places a Palestinian keffiyeh on a monument for late Pope John Paul II at during a protest in Rome, Italy, on Friday. REUTERS

Under the plan, which Trump unveiled earlier this week alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Hamas would immediately release the remaining 48 hostages — around 20 of them believed to be alive. It would also give up power and disarm.

In return, Israel would halt its offensive and withdraw from much of the territory, release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and allow an influx of humanitarian aid and eventual reconstruction. Plans to relocate much of Gaza's population to other countries would be shelved.

The territory of some 2 million Palestinians would be placed under international governance, with Trump himself and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair overseeing it. The plan provides no path for eventual reunification with the Israeli-occupied West Bank in a future Palestinian state.

A Hamas official told The Associated Press this week that some elements of the plan are unacceptable and need to be amended, without elaborating. Palestinians long for an end to the war, but many view this and previous US proposals as strongly favouring Israel.

Israel has sought to ramp up pressure on Hamas since ending an earlier ceasefire in March. It sealed the territory off from food, medicine and other goods for 2 1/2 months and has seized, flattened and largely depopulated large areas of the territory.

Experts determined that Gaza City had slid into famine shortly before Israel launched a major offensive aimed at occupying it. An estimated 400,000 people have fled the city in recent weeks, but hundreds of thousands more have stayed behind. Trump wrote that most of Hamas' fighters are "surrounded and MILITARILY TRAPPED, just waiting for me to give the word, 'GO,' for their lives to be quickly extinguished. As for the rest, we know where and who you are, and you will be hunted down, and killed."

Most of Hamas' top leaders in Gaza and thousands of its fighters have already been killed, but it still has influence in areas not controlled by the Israeli military and launches sporadic attacks that have killed and wounded Israeli soldiers. Hamas has held firm to its position that it will only release the remaining hostages — its sole bargaining chip and potential human shields — in exchange for a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal. Netanyahu has rejected those terms, saying Hamas must surrender and disarm.

Thousands of Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on October 7, 2023, attacking army bases, farming communities and an outdoor music festival, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians. They abducted 251 others, most of them since released in ceasefires or other deals. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 66,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. It says women and children make up around half the dead.

Pak's attempt to mislead UNHRC exposes its hypocrisy: India

GENEVA, PTI: India slammed Pakistan at the UN Human Rights Council, saying a country with one of the world's worst human rights records should confront the rampant State-sponsored persecution and systemic discrimination of religious minorities in its own society.

"We find it deeply ironic that a country with one of the world's worst human rights records seeks to lecture others," Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India, Geneva, K S Mohammed Hussain said while speaking during a General Debate at the 60th Session of Human Rights Council at Geneva.

"Their attempts to misuse this august forum with fabricated allegations against India only expose their hypocrisy. Instead of making baseless propaganda, they should confront the rampant State-sponsored persecution and systemic discrimination that plague their own society," Hussain said without mentioning any country.

But it was a clear reference to Pakistan, whose representative, speaking before India, raked up the Kashmir issue. India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country. Hussain also said India has been steadfastly making efforts to ensure the fullest enjoyment of human rights by our people and to realise sustainable development.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A firefighting crew works to contain a fire at the Fire Chevron Products Company Refinery in El Segundo, California, following an explosion at the oil refinery on Thursday. The company said no one was hurt. AFP

Munich Airport temporarily shut after drone sightings

▶ Munich Airport was temporarily shut down overnight after several drone sightings in the area, the latest mysterious drone overflights in the airspace of European Union countries, AP/PTI reports from Munich.

Germany's air traffic control restricted flights at the airport shortly after 10 pm on Thursday and then halted them altogether, airport operators said in a statement. Seventeen flights were unable to take off, affecting almost 3,000 passengers, while 15 arriving flights were diverted to three other airports in Germany and one in Vienna, Austria. Flights in and out of the airport resumed at 5 am, said Stefan Bayer, a spokesperson for Germany's federal police at Munich airport. Authorities were not immediately able to provide any information about who was responsible for the overflights. A statement from the airport early Friday said there had been "several drone sightings," without elaborating. Bayer said it wasn't immediately clear how many drones might have been involved. He said police, airline employees and "regular people around the airport" were among witnesses who reported the drone sightings. After the closure of the runways, federal police deployed helicopters and other means to try to track down the drones, but no signs of them could be found, Bayer said.

2 Indians die in Italy road accident

▶ Two Indians were among three people killed in a road accident in Italy's Grosseto on Friday morning, PTI reports from London.

The accident took place when a van and a nine-seater minibus carrying Asian tourists collided on the northbound lane of the Aurelia state road in Grosseto, according to Italian news agency ANSA. Five people, including children, were injured. Firefighter teams and officials on duty rescued the injured, who were shifted to hospitals. The Indian Embassy in Italy said it was in contact with the family of the victims and the local authorities. "We are providing all assistance to the family," it said.

"The Embassy conveys its heartfelt and sincere condolences for the tragic loss of two Indian nationals from Nagpur in an accident near Grosseto. Our prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured family members who are undergoing treatment," it said in a post on X.

Putin orders govt to soften trade imbalance with India

Modi a balanced and wise leader, says Russian prez

MOSCOW, PTI

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his anticipation for his upcoming visit to India in early December and has ordered the government to devise measures to soften the trade imbalance with India due to the heavy import of crude by New Delhi.

Speaking at the international Valdai discussion forum of security and geopolitical experts from 140 countries, including India, in the Black Sea resort of Sochi in South Russia on Thursday evening, Putin underlined that Russia and India have never had any problems or tensions between them and always took actions by keeping in view their sensitivities.

"We have never had any problems or interstate tensions with India. Never," the Russian leader noted. Putin highlighted the "special" nature of Russia-India relations since the days of the Soviet Union, when India was fighting for its independence.

"In India, they remember this, they know it, and they value it. We appreciate that India has not forgotten it," he declared.

He referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his friend, noting that he feels comfortable in their trustworthy interactions.

Putin lauded India's nationalist government led by Modi, calling him a "balanced, wise", and "nationally oriented" leader. "Everyone in India knows this well," he said.

"The losses faced by India due to punitive US tariffs would be balanced by crude imports from Russia, plus it will gain prestige as a sovereign nation," Putin said.

He said Russia may buy more agricultural products and medicines from India. "More agricultural products may be purchased from India. Certain steps can be undertaken from our side for medicinal products, pharmaceuticals," Putin said.

Church of England appoints first female leader

CANTERBURY (ENGLAND), REUTERS

The Church of England named Sarah Mullally on Friday as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman to hold the 1,400-year-old office, prompting immediate criticism from conservative Anglican churches in Africa who oppose women bishops.

The 63-year-old former nurse will become the ceremonial head of 85 million Anglicans worldwide and, like her predecessors, will face a Communion divided between conservatives and more liberal Christians in the West over the role of women in the Church and over same-sex couples.

Laurent Mbanda, archbishop of Rwanda and chairman of a global grouping of conservative Anglican churches, told Reuters the appointment made it impossible for the Archbishop of Canterbury "to serve as a focus of unity within the Communion".

Archbishop of Canterbury-designate Dame Sarah Mullally delivers an address in the Quire of Canterbury Cathedral in Kent on Friday. AP/PTI

Backs liberal ideals

Bishop of London since 2018, Mullally has previously championed blessings for same-sex couples - a major source of contention in the global Anglican Communion, with homosexuality outlawed in some African countries.

Mullally said in an address in Canterbury Cathedral on Friday that she would seek to help every ministry to flourish, "whatever our tradition".

She also said she wanted the Church to tackle the misuse of power after sexual abuse scandals and safeguarding issues, and she condemned rising antisemitism following an attack on a synagogue in Manchester on Thursday which killed two men. Asked by Reuters in an interview on Friday about same-sex relationships, Mullally said the Church of England and the broader Anglican Communion have long wrestled with difficult issues. "It may not be resolved quickly," she said.

Reforms introduced more than a decade ago have made it possible for a woman to become the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. It is one of the last British institutions to have been run until now only by men. But those reforms have been rejected by many in Africa and Asia.

Mullally will replace Justin Welby. She said on Friday she would focus on improvements in safeguarding, saying: "My commitment will be to ensure that we continue to listen to (abuse) survivors, care for the vulnerable and foster a culture of safety and well-being for all."

Mullally is a former cancer nurse who worked as England's Chief Nursing Officer in the early 2000s, while also being ordained as a priest in 2002.

Japan's ruling party to pick new leader to succeed Ishiba

TOKYO, AP/PTI: Japan's long-governing Liberal Democratic Party will choose a new leader Saturday to replace Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, but the winner must quickly restore political stability and regain public support for the struggling party to stay in power.

Three of the five candidates in Saturday's intra-party vote are seen as the favourites. They include a woman who could become Japan's first female prime minister, the son of a former prime minister and a veteran moderate. The winner must act quickly to address rising prices if the party is to have any chance of winning back support after election losses to the LDP and its junior partner Komeito in the past year cost their coalition a majority in both houses of parliament.

The new party president is still likely to become prime minister because the LDP still has the most seats in the lower house, which chooses the prime minister, and opposition groups are splintered. The winner will immediately face a big test — hosting a possible summit with US President Donald Trump.

Singer Raye arrives to attend Givenchy's show as part of the Paris Fashion Week in Paris on Friday. AFP

Luxembourg gets new grand duke

▶ Grand Duke Guillaume swore an oath to ascend to the throne of Luxembourg on Friday in a traditional ceremony attended by royals and European heads of state, AP/PTI reports from Luxembourg.

Flanked by his wife, the new Grand Duchess Stephanie, Grand Duke Guillaume, 43, swore the oath in Luxembourg's parliament and took the throne. "I will live the life of my people, from whom I do not want to be separated by any barrier. I will share their joys and sufferings," Guillaume said, quoting a 1919 speech by one of his predecessors, the Grand Duchess Charlotte, in his first address to the nation. Grand Duke Guillaume, 43, takes over from his father Henri, 70, who had served for 25 years in the largely symbolic role.

Nobel Prize winners to be announced next week

STOCKHOLM, AP/PTI: The Nobel Prize winners will be announced next week. The awards are considered among the world's most prestigious honours for achievements in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, economics and peace.

For the Nobel Peace Prize, US President Donald Trump has been nominated several times by people within the US as well as politicians abroad since 2018. His name was also put forth in December by a Republican congresswoman for his brokering of the Abraham Accords, which normalised relations between Israel and some Arab states.

The Peace Prize will be announced on Friday, and the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences on October 13.

The awards will be handed out on December 10.

Trump administration reverses $187 million in New York counter-terrorism cuts

NYT NEWS SERVICE: The Trump administration will restore $187 million in cuts it had made to law enforcement funding, which would have devastated New York's intelligence and counter-terrorism operations, following a bipartisan push to reinstate the funds.

The cuts, which represented the largest federal defunding of police operations in New York in decades, were made by the Department of Homeland Security, without explanation and without the approval of President Donald Trump, White House officials said.

Indeed, Trump was blindsided by the decision to defund the police, not learning of the cuts until Gov Kathy Hochul of New York called him on Sunday to protest the change after the fact, according to three people with knowledge of the call.

The frantic effort to undo the rolling cuts, made to the Homeland Security Grant Program, with the last $100 million slashed over the weekend, underscored the chaos unfolding as the Trump administration moves to punish political adversaries by stopping the flow of billions of dollars in federal funds that had already been allocated nationwide.

Trump confirmed the restoration Friday in a post to Truth Social, saying: "I am pleased to advise that I reversed the cuts made to Homeland Security and Counterterrorism for New York City and State. It was my Honor to do so. Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

Earlier Friday, Homeland Security officials released a statement that did not explain the reasoning behind the cuts or their reversal.

HEALTHIER LIVING

Fixing food a recipe to avoiding 15 million deaths and climate disaster: Scientists

CHICAGO, AP/PTI

About 15 million deaths could be avoided each year and agricultural emissions could drop by 15 per cent if people worldwide shift to healthier, predominantly plant-based diets, according to the EAT-Lancet Commission, which brought together scientists worldwide to review the latest data on food's role in human health, climate change, biodiversity and people's working and living conditions.

Their conclusion: Without substantial changes to the food system, the worst effects of climate change will be unavoidable, even if humans successfully switch to cleaner energy.

"If we do not transition away from the unsustainable food path we're on today, we will fail on the climate agenda. We will fail on the biodiversity agenda. We will fail on food security. We'll fail on so many pathways," said study co-author Johan Rockstrom, who leads the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

The commission's first report in 2019 was regarded as a "really monumental landmark study" for its willingness to take food system reform seriously while factoring in human and environmental health, said Adam Shriver, director of wellness and nutrition at the Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement.

The first EAT-Lancet report proposed a "planetary health diet" centred on grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes. The update maintains that to improve their health while also reducing global warming, it's a good idea for people to eat one serving each of animal protein and dairy per day while limiting red meat to about once a week. This particularly applies to people in developed nations who disproportionately contribute to climate change and have more choices about the foods they eat.

The dietary recommendations were based on data about risks of preventable diseases like Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, not environmental criteria. Human and planetary health happen to be in alignment, the researchers said.

Rockstrom said it may seem "boring" for an analysis to reach the same conclusion six years later, but he finds this reassuring because food science is a rapidly moving field with many big studies and improving analytics. Food is one of the most deeply personal choices a person can make, and "the health component touches everyone's heart," Rockstrom said.

US hits drugs ship near Venezuela

▶ The United States killed four people in a strike against a vessel allegedly carrying illegal drugs, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Friday, at least the fourth such attack in recent weeks, Reuters reports from Washington.

US President Donald Trump has determined the United States is engaged in "a non-international armed conflict" with drug cartels, according to a congressional notification this week. In a post on X, Hegseth said the latest strike was carried out in international waters, just off the coast of Venezuela. "These strikes will continue until the attacks on the American people are over!!!!," Hegseth said. In a nearly 40-second video shared by Hegseth, a vessel can be seen moving through the water before a web of projectiles simultaneously appear to hit the boat and the water, causing the boat to explode on impact. Hegseth said, without providing evidence, that the intelligence "without a doubt" confirmed that the vessel was carrying drugs and that the people on board were "narco-terrorists." He said the boat was carrying a "substantial" amount of drugs, without detailing the amount or type of the alleged drugs. Trump said the boat had enough drugs to kill 25,000 to 50,000 people.

Need to reach 8% GDP growth to achieve Viksit Bharat goal: FM

Govt ready to engage with crypto innovations

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India needs to accelerate its GDP growth rate to 8% annually in order to achieve developed country vision by 2047, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday.

"We have to reach 8% GDP growth to get to the goal for Viksit Bharat. By 2047 becoming Viksit Bharat by self reliance does not mean we want to be a closed economy. We are in an era of unprecedented global volatility. India, however, has a strong capacity to absorb external shocks" she said at the Kautilya Economic Conclave.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.5% in 2024-25. In the first quarter of the current financial year the growth stood at 7.8%. For the full year 2025-26, the RBI has pegged the GDP growth at 6.8%. Most estimates put India's economic growth to remain in the range of 6 to 7% in the coming years.

Speaking at the same event Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission NK Singh emphasised on the need for improvement in the incremental capital output ratio (ICOR) and continued focus on exports and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to accelerate economic growth.

"Notwithstanding external constraints and rising tariffs, trade must remain an engine of growth, entailing intensive search and diversification into new products, entry into fresh markets, and a strong push in high-value services exports," Singh said.

Referring to the high tariffs imposed by the US President Donald Trump administration on several countries, Sitharaman said the trade restrictions and geopolitical conflicts are not merely short-term shocks but represent deeper structural changes.

"We cannot afford to be passive spectators in a world where decisions elsewhere determine our destinies. We must be active participants, shaping outcomes where possible and preserving autonomy where necessary," she said.

The Finance Minister hinted at flexibility in the government's approach to cryptocurrency. "Innovations like Stablecoins are transforming the landscape of money and capital flows," she said, adding the government is ready to engage with such innovations.

A stablecoin is a cryptocurrency designed to maintain a consistent price relative to another asset, usually the US dollar.

Highlighting the transformation in the crypto sector, Sitharaman said, "these shifts may force nations to make binary choices: adapt to new monetary architectures or risk exclusion."

"They also remind us that no nation can insulate itself from systemic change. Whether we welcome these shifts or not, we must prepare to engage with them," Sitharaman said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman meets Indonesian economist Mari Elka Pangestu during Kautilya Economic Conclave 2025, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI PHOTO

'RBI's primary focus is inflation, but growth also kept in mind'

India anchor of stability in volatile world: Governor

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Sanjay Malhotra

The Reserve Bank of India's primary focus is price stability, but economic growth has also been kept in mind while deciding the policy actions, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Friday.

Speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave, Malhotra underlined the need for balancing institutional autonomy and accountability. "India has done very well in giving the Reserve Bank the independence where it is required, but with accountability," he said.

Malhotra's comment came a couple of days after the RBI's monetary policy committee opted to keep policy interest rates unchanged despite easing inflation.

The headline retail inflation fell to an eight-year low of 1.55% in July. After easing for nine straight months, the consumer price index (CPI) based inflation rose to 2.07% in August. Despite the increase, the headline retail inflation remains close to the lower tolerance limit of the RBI.

The central bank is mandated by the government to maintain inflation at 4% with an upper or lower margin of 2%. This means the inflation should be maintained in the range of 2% to 6%.

Malhotra said the current inflation targeting framework is being reviewed. "The Reserve Bank has a view which is communicated to the government, and the final buck is with the government," he said. The inflation target framework is reviewed every five years. The current framework is valid from 2021-26.

On GDP growth, the Governor said India's economy remains resilient despite volatility in the global economy. "India stands as an anchor of stability in a volatile world," he said.

"India's macroeconomic fundamentals are strong, low inflation, narrow CAD, strong balance sheets of corporates, high forex reserves showing financial and policy certainty," Malhotra said, highlighting the strong fundamentals of the Indian economy.

On the global economy, the RBI Governor said the growth remains strong despite the challenges.

"Despite high US tariffs, trade restrictions and uncertainties going forward, the global economy has stayed surprisingly resilient till now. Growth has been upbeat defying projections, even though uncertainty has become a pervasive element of contemporary discourse. Its tangible effects on the real economy have thus far been muted. We have more to see as to how it unfolds," he said.

The RBI Governor said that the change in trade strategy and imposition of high tariffs by the US have reversed years of global economic integration.

Rupee falls 8 paise to close at 88.79 against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI

The rupee depreciated 8 paise to close at 88.79 against the US dollar on Friday, near its all-time low level, on dollar demand from importers and persistent foreign fund outflows.

Forex traders said the USD/INR pair is hovering around its all-time low level, weighed down by trade tensions and global uncertainties.

Moreover, persistent foreign fund outflows and the ongoing US visa fee hike issue also dragged down the domestic unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.68 against the US dollar and touched an intraday low of 88.85 and finally settled for the day at 88.790, lower by 8 paise from its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee recovered 9 paise from its all-time closing low to settle at 88.71 against US dollar.

On Thursday, equity, forex, bullion and commodity markets were closed on account of Gandhi Jayanti and Dussehra.

On September 30, the rupee had fallen to an all-time low of 88.80 against the US dollar.

"The Indian currency steadied within a tight range over the past few days, having suffered a historic low earlier in the week. The underlying mood for the rupee remains down due to sustained capital outflow from foreign investors. Nevertheless, a rebound in local share markets and moderation in crude oil prices to lend some stability,"

Dilip Parmar, Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said.

"We expect the rupee to strengthen amid broad weakness in the US dollar and weakness in global crude oil prices. However, importer demand for dollar may cap sharp upside," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst Currency and commodities Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Choudhary further noted that the US dollar may weaken amid lack of economic data from the US amid the government shutdown. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 88.40 to 89.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 97.78, lower by 0.06%, amid US government shutdown.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.03% higher at USD 64.77 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex climbed 223.86 points to settle at 81,207.17, while the Nifty settled up 57.95 points at 24,894.25.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,583.37 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left its key interest rates unchanged on Wednesday, as it waited for greater clarity on the impact of US tariffs as well as playout of earlier rate cuts and recent tax reductions.

Competition is welcome, but desperate scavenging not a strength: Priyank Kharge

BENGALURU, DHNS: "Competition is always welcome; we thrive on it. But let's be clear, desperate scavenging is not a strength," Karnataka IT minister Priyank Kharge replied to Andhra Pradesh's IT Minister Nara Lokesh, after the latter invited startups and firms from Bengaluru to invest in Anantapur. He also took a dig at Bengaluru's infrastructure issues.

This is the second time Lokesh has tried to attract startups, as last month he invited logistics tech company BlackBuck to relocate its operations to Visakhapatnam after the startup's co-founder and CEO, Rajesh Yabaji, announced his decision to move out of ORR.

The exchange of words began when Nara Lokesh quoted a news report and posted on X, saying, "North sounds good. Slightly more north is Anantapur...where we are building a world-class aerospace and defence ecosystem!"

Kharge replied, saying it is natural for weaker ecosystems to feed off stronger ones. "Nothing wrong with that, but when it turns into desperate scavenging, it shows more weakness than strength," he posted.

He added that Bengaluru's GDP is projected to grow at a significant 8.5% until 2035, positioning it as the world's fastest-growing city, and that the city's property market will rise by 5% in 2025.

"Savills Growth Hubs Index states, we are set to outpace global counterparts in terms of urbanisation, economic growth, and innovation by 2033. The urban agglomeration of Bengaluru is estimated to have 14.40 million people in 2025, with an annual growth rate of 2.76%," he said, adding that Bengaluru is one of the highest migrant absorption cities in the country.

"The Government is and will continue to build infrastructure for the rapid growth we are experiencing. BTW, what is an organism that lives in or on an organism of another species and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense called?" Kharge said.

For which, Lokesh replied that as India's youngest state, they are looking for every opportunity to grow and generate jobs. "I truly believe that as states compete for investments and jobs, India will prosper. My humble suggestion - Arrogance, like potholes on roads, should be fixed first before the journey gets tripped up!"

Soon Kharge responded, "It is the duty of every government to acknowledge problems and provide solutions."

Gold falls to Rs 1.20 lakh per 10 gm

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gold prices fell by Rs 500 to Rs 1,20,600 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, ending a five-day record-extending rally, as investors booked profits and a slight recovery in the US dollar weighed on sentiment.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had rallied Rs 1,100 to hit an all-time high of Rs 1,21,100 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

Gold of 99.5% purity also retreated from its peak, slipping Rs 500 to Rs 1,20,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at Rs 1,20,500 per 10 grams in the previous trading session.

Local bullion markets were closed on Thursday on account of Gandhi Jayanti and Dussehra.

RBI proposes to ease foreign borrowing rules for firms

MUMBAI, REUTERS: India's central bank on Friday proposed linking corporate foreign borrowing limits to financial strength and scrapping cost caps on most such debt in a push to improve funding flows under wider measures unveiled this week by Governor Sanjay Malhotra. The RBI's proposal allows firms to raise up to $1 billion or 300% of net worth, whichever is higher. This replaces the earlier $1.5 billion cap under the automatic route, which needed specific approval for larger sums.

The central bank also suggested scrapping cost caps, permitting external commercial borrowings at market-determined interest rates, instead of the previous ceiling of a global benchmark, plus 500–550 basis points.

For borrowings of less than three year maturity, costs will be capped in line with those applicable for trade credit.

Along with that, the RBI also proposed widening the pool of eligible borrowers and lenders and easing restrictions on the use of such borrowings.

The central bank proposed allowing any India-incorporated entity, including firms under restructuring or investigation, to tap external borrowings.

Companies under restructuring would need approval under a resolution plan, while those under investigation could borrow with adequate disclosures.

Previously, only entities eligible for foreign direct investment could access overseas debt.

The RBI has invited feedback on the proposals until October 24 before finalising the rules.

TCS layoffs: IIDEA demands government intervention

BENGALURU, DHNS: The IIDEA (IT & ITES Democratic Employees Association) has condemned Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) termination of over 12,000 employees.

In a statement, the association said the mass termination is not merely a corporate decision but a blatant and illegal act that shreds the social contract of the country's IT sector.

"It represents a deeply alarming trend where highly profitable corporations are treating their dedicated, long-serving workforce as disposable commodities in a ruthless pursuit of 'profit at any cost," the association said, adding Lok Sabha MP Raja Ram Singh's letter seeking government intervention accurately exposes the false narrative of "skill mismatch" propagated by TCS.

"The company's own data, showing 91% of employees received skill-upgradation training, completely dismantles this excuse. The truth is that this is a calculated global strategy to replace secure, permanent jobs with a more precarious, contract-based workforce, flouting Indian labour laws with impunity," the association stated.

DGTR for anti-dumping duty on Chinese solar cells

NEW DELHI, PTI: The commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR has recommended the imposition of anti-dumping duty for three years on import of solar cells from China, with an aim to guard domestic players from cheap imports.

In its final findings, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has concluded that 'Solar Cells whether or not assembled in Modules or made up into Panels' have been exported to India at a price below the normal value, resulting in dumping.

The injury to the domestic industry has been caused by the dumping of the product, the DGTR has said in a notification.

"The authority recommends imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty on the imports... for a period of 3 years... as a percentage of the CIF (cost, insurance, freight) value of the goods," it said.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
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Dt: Vijayapur. Phone:08426-286126, E-mail: kbjnleemli@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/MLI Dn-1/PB/Tender/2025-26/675 Date: 30.09.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Procurement only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL: Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KBJNL: MLI Division No.1, Mattihal invites tender on percentage/item Rate basis from the eligible bidders e-tenders in Two cover/Single cover system, eligible contractors for 12 No's of work indent No's 2135, 2592, 2593, 2118, 2545, 2144, 2544, 2134, 2542, 2543, 2138, 2120 and two works reserved for SC Category Contractor (indent no 2543, 2120) tendered Amount for Varies from Rs. 3.13 to 169.49 lakhs. The Contractor can have access to e- tender documents

Stages of Tender Process;

Sl.No	Stages of Tender Process	Two Cover	Single Cover
1	The contractor can have access and submit e-tender	From Dated 03.10.2025 to 14.10.2025 up to 5.30 pm.	From Dated 03.10.2025 to 14.10.2025 up to 5.30pm.
2	Pre bid meeting Place and Time	Executive Engineer KBJNL, MLI Division No-1, Mattihal Dated 10.10.2025 @ 11.00 Am	
3	Technical Bid will be opened on	Dated 16.10.2025 @ 11.00Am in front of the Present Contractor	Dated 16.10.2025 @ 11.00 Am in front of the Present Contractor
4	Financial Bid will be opened on	Dated 18.10.2025 @ 11.00Am in front of the Present Contractor or after approval of Technical bid Evaluation	

The Contractors can request for e-tendering documents in the KBJNL web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in link e-tender document.
Further information can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours on telephone No. 08426-286126.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, MLI Division No-1, Mattihal

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/376/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(IMA & other company scam cases)
Podium Block, 3rd floor, Vishweshwaraya Towers, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 080-29565353 | email: splocaima21@gmail.com

No:SPLOCA/ADM/30/2024-25 Date: 30.09.2025

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Regarding Invitation for application/proposals to avail human resources to the office of the Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru Division & Special Officer & Competent Authority (IMA & other scam cases)
The resumes are invited from aspirant individuals to fill the below posts which are allotted by the Office of the Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru Division & Special Officer and Competent Authority (IMA & other company scam cases), the proposals may submitted to the office of the special officer and Competitive Authority (IMA & Other Company Scam Cases)

Details of the posts **Last date of Submission of Resume: 10.10.2025**

Post/ Designation: Shirastedar/Deputy Tahsildar, No. of Post: 1, Maximum Contract wage per month (Actual shall depend upon qualification & Experience, on satisfactory completion of probation) Rs.52,000/- to 55,000/- Qualification: Should have retired from the Revenue Department as Shirastedar Deputy Tahsildar or in equivalent post is State Government with blemish less record, no suspension or Departmental Enquiry or Criminal case. Age: Not more than 65 years.

Post/ Designation: Accounts Superintendent, No. of Post: 1, Maximum Contract wage per month (Actual shall depend upon qualification & Experience, on satisfactory completion of probation) Rs.56,000/- Qualification: Either retired from State Audit & Accounts Department or any Accounts & Audit service from Central Government, within the last 2 years in equivalent position, with minimum qualification of B.Com & not above the age of 62 years or M. Com with at least 10 years experience in accounts in any reputed Firm / Government Organisation in an equivalent Position. The applicants must have sound knowledge of Familiarity with single entry accounting & retired official with blemish less record, no suspension or Departmental Enquiry or Criminal case.

Post/ Designation: Finance and Audit Officer, Qualification: Basic: M.Com, Preference: CA, Relevant Experience, Basic: 10 Years in Bank/Government Agencies as Auditor/ Accountant/Forensic Audit/Asset Valuation etc. Preference: 20 Years in Bank/Government Agencies as Auditor/Accountant/Forensic Audit/Asset Valuation etc, No. of Post: 1, Contract Wage per Month: 50,000/- to 55,000/- Depending on experience and qualification.

Post/ Designation: IT Personnel-2 Jr Programmer & Networking Manager. Qualification: Basic: BE CSE/IS with Certificate Networking, Preference: BE CSE/IS with Certificate in Python, Basic: Minimum 1 year as Data Scientist or Programmer, Preference: 1 year in Programming, No. of Post: 1, Contract Wage per Month: 45,000/- to 50,000/- Depending on experience and qualification.

The Position is renewable year on year. It is a post on contract, renewable on satisfactory performance with periodic enhancement of salary scales & **not a permanent government service.**

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
IMA & other KPID Cases, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3069/CCL/2025-26

Don't Miss Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

DH DECCAN HERALD

BIG PICTURE
A dive into cafe economy.

BOOKS
Bestselling author RF Kuang's latest is profound but puerile.

ART & PURSUITS
The cultural significance of Sri Lanka's masks.

FOOD & DRINK
An essential guide to cooking oils.

TRAVEL
Explore Lisbon's Indian connections.

WELLNESS
The perils of excessive smartphone usage.

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GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Chief Health Officer (P.H), GBA,
Annex Building-3, N.R.Square, Bengaluru-560002

No: MSU/PR/10/2025-26 Date: 03.10.2025

NOTIFICATION

A notification was published on 25.07.2025 pertaining to fill the posts for Medical, Paramedical and Support Staff coming under Metropolitan Surveillance Unit for a period of 07 months on full contract basis and walk-in process was conducted on 05.08.2025. As per notification the provisional list of selected candidate under merit cum roster basis were published in the website of Greater Bangalore Authority (https://bbmp.gov.in). Any objections to the posts in this provisional selection list, the candidates / public may submit their objections to the Office of the Chief Health Officer (P.H), Annex-3, Ground Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002 in person or by post (registered post) within 07 Government working days from the date of publication of this notification. It is hereby notified that any objections received after 07 days will not be considered.

Sd/-, Chief Health Officer (P.H)
Greater Bengaluru Authority

Hide and squeak

Suryakumari Dennison tells the tale of two crafty twins, a tutor and a closet

"It's a beautiful day," said Rohan, gazing out at the clear blue sky. "Let's get on our cycles and ride around town."

"Sounds wonderful," said Rohit wistfully, "but have you forgotten we have Kannada tuition?"

"Why must we study when others are enjoying themselves?" groaned Rohan. "After all, thanks to Bheemanna sir, we are now doing much better in Kannada. He is an amazing teacher, but this Saturday morning is perfect for cycling."

"Isn't that Sharad?" said Rohit, joining his twin at the window, and indicating a boy some distance away.

Rohan nodded. "Yes, and Naresh is with him, both on their bicycles. We should be out there. Shall we ask Rashmi didi to tell Sir that we are ill and need fresh air?"

"That won't work," said Rohit. In a respectful tone, he added, "Didi would die for us, but not lie for us."

"She only has to tell Bheemanna sir that we are not at home," persisted Rohan. "Since we shall not be indoors, it will be the truth."

Rohit shook his head. "When Bheemanna sir asks where we are, Didi will not make excuses for us if she knows we are dodging tuition."

"We have to hide," said Rohan urgently. "Didi will hunt awhile, and then tell Bheemanna sir we are missing. The moment he leaves, we'll escape. Later, we can think up an explanation."

"But where can we conceal ourselves?" asked Rohit, the less quick-witted of the two.

"Bheemanna sir will arrive in five minutes."

"The closet on the landing," his brother replied promptly. As the twins dashed upstairs, the doorbell rang. "Today, of all days, Sir is early," grumbled Rohan. "Hurry! In we go."

It was not Bheemanna sir. The twins could hear their sister greet their classmate. "Come in, Akshay," she said warmly. "I'll call Rohan and Rohit."

Rohan and Rohit were not surprised. Akshay had come to meet the master. For someone who had not been studying Kannada long, Akshay had learnt the language well. He was, however (much to the twins' bewilderment), eager to improve further. Akshay, therefore, dropped in occasionally to benefit from Bheemanna sir's expert instruction. Opening the closet door slightly, Rohan whispered, "Akshay, come quickly."

"What ___" Akshay began, just as Rashmi reentered the drawing-room. "I can't find ___" she said, sounding puzzled, ceasing abruptly for Akshay had vanished. The twins had pulled him into their hideout.

It was stuffy inside. The boys were squashed together in a small space, which housed an assortment of detergents and cleaning appliances. The closet could barely accommodate two people, and for three it was a tight squeeze. Tall Akshay had to crouch to keep his head from hitting the ceiling. Feeling claustrophobic, he was about to step out when Rashmi started speaking again: "There must be a good reason for their absence, Sir," she said. "They would never be disrespectful enough to deliberately miss a class with you."

The listening twins squirmed uneasily, not merely from physical discomfort. As for Akshay, it was not his conscience pricking him, but the stiff hairs of a cobweb-clearing device, which was jammed under his nose.

"I'll wait for them," announced Bheemanna sir, settling himself by the window.

Taking a step back to prevent the closet from keeling over, Rohit couldn't stop his shoes from squeaking. "What was that?" demanded Bheemanna sir, jerking forward.

"Probably a rat, Sir," said Rashmi soothingly.

When she departed to make a cup of tea for him, Bheemanna sir sprang from his chair. "I certainly smell a rat," he muttered, ascending the stairs. He had just reached the landing when Akshay, whose nostrils were being uncomfortably assailed by the bristles of the broom, sneezed violently.

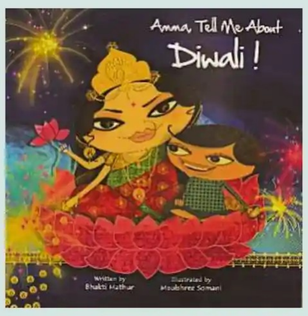
Startled, Rohan let go of the inner bolt he had been clutching, and the closet door flew open. Brushes, bottles and buckets tumbled out with a clatter. The boys fell out along with them, almost knocking down the tutor.

As Rashmi came rushing in, Bheemanna sir said calmly. "What a lot of time your brothers have wasted, my dear! I had planned to forego our session today, since the weather is suitable for outdoor activities. Anyway, it's not too late. Rohan and Rohit, run along to meet your friends, while I spend a profitable hour with Akshay."

"Tumba dhanyavaadagalu, Sir," said the grateful twins.

4 BOOKS ON FESTIVALS

Their stories talk about rituals, food and family time



Amma, Tell Me About Diwali!

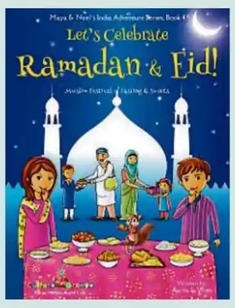
Author: Bhakti Mathur

Two curious brothers, Klaka and Kiki, are on a mission to understand why everyone is so excited about Diwali. Their mother patiently explains the history, rituals, and customs of the festival to the duo. She tells them about decorating homes with diyas and rangoli, offering prayers, and bursting crackers. The book introduces children to the cultural and spiritual significance of the festival. Its illustrations and rhyming text make it a fun bedtime read.

Festival Stories: Through the Year

Author: Rachna Chhabria

Not a month goes by in our country without a festival to celebrate. In this book, twins Natasha and Nikhil navigate the year, celebrating festivals, big and small. Each story immerses readers in a different festival — be it Lohri, Diwali, Holi, Eid, or Christmas. It explains the customs, festive foods, family gatherings, and games of each festival. The book makes for a relatable and fun reading while also teaching children about India's diversity.



Let's Celebrate Ramadan & Eid!

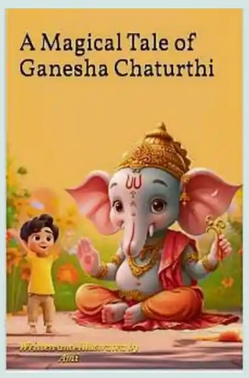
Author: Ajanta Chakraborty and Vivek Kumar

Join siblings Maya and Neel and their pet squirrel Chintu as they try to understand the significance of Ramadan and the celebration of Eid, and make new friends in the process. Through their eyes, readers learn about the different practices of the festival, such as fasting and charity, and about the spirit of togetherness. The book also captures the essence of gratitude.

A Magical Tale of Ganesha Chaturthi

Author: R Ami

Dive into the magical world of Ganesha Chaturthi with this story that follows the preparations and celebrations surrounding the festival. The narrative weaves together the excitement of bringing home lord Ganesha, making eco-friendly idols, and the communal joy of immersions. Through its beautiful illustrations, the book also teaches lessons, such as facing challenges with courage, embracing new beginnings, and spreading love and joy.



Should schools start later in the day?

Open Sesame readers talk it out

YES

I stand firmly in favour of schools starting later in the morning. Let us be honest: how many of us truly feel fresh at seven o'clock?

Most students walk into class half asleep, and no matter how skilled the teacher is, a tired mind cannot absorb knowledge. Science supports this argument.

Teenagers need eight to ten hours of sleep for healthy growth, yet early school timings cut into this rest. As a result, students struggle with stress, poor concentration and even health issues. If schools begin later, students will arrive alert, energetic and more eager to learn. Quality learning is always better than forced yawning.

Some may argue that later timings would disturb parents' schedules or reduce time for sports and other activities. But solutions can be found. Activities can be rescheduled, transport can be adjusted, and parents will notice the difference when their children are healthier and more focused. Education is about learning effectively, not following an outdated routine.

So I ask you, should we continue dragging sleepy students into classrooms at sunrise, or should we give them the chance to truly thrive? The answer is clear. A well-rested student is a brighter and happier learner.

ADIVYA GUPTA, 15
Bengaluru, Karnataka

NO

Starting school early in the morning helps build good habits for life. It helps students learn how to wake up on time and be responsible. It enforces discipline, which is an essential quality if you want a good life.

If children are not able to practice discipline from a young age, then they will struggle in adulthood, as most jobs start fairly early in the morning. Also, when in college, it is important to be able to wake up early, because as you grow older the amount of work you have increases, and by the time you are in college, there will be a lot of work to do. You need to be able to manage that work, and one of the best ways to do so it wake up early in the morning and study.

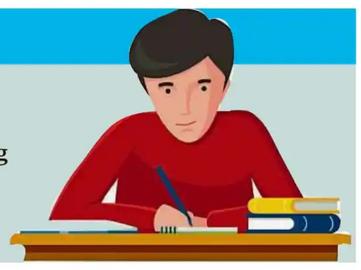
If school starts early, then children are forced to complete many tasks quickly. This means that they are able to avoid putting things off, which later helps reduce procrastination. Another bonus is that our minds are often more alert and ready to learn in the mornings. It is a great time to focus on school work.

ALINAH VASUDEVA MOHANTY, 11
Bengaluru, Karnataka

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'Secret life of toys' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on October 16. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.



LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to an alien

If you got the chance to meet an alien, what would you like to know about the universe, and what would you tell them about earth? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city, and send us a recent photograph. Entries close on October 9.

Word of the Week

qualm

(verb)
— an uneasy feeling of doubt, worry, or fear.

Usage:
— Ramya agreed to the plan without any qualms.
— Even with two left feet, Sam had no qualms about joining the dance contest.

This Week:

Only October Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was assassinated, on October 6, 1981. Which of the dignitaries, in attendance at his funeral, had shared the Nobel Peace Prize with him, three years earlier?

Q2 On October 28, 1636, Harvard University was founded in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Who studied there between 1833 and 1837, later writing an essay titled 'Civil Disobedience', which influenced Mahatma Gandhi?

Q3 On October 25, 1854, the British suffered heavy casualties in a cavalry charge, at the Battle of Balaclava, during the Crimean War. Which English poet immortalised that attack?

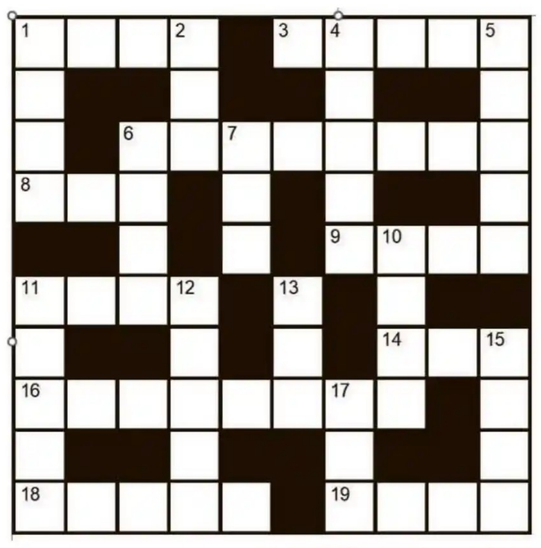
Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: October 24 is International Day of the__.
Clue B: Long narrow strip of fabric for tying something.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Which statue, a gift to the United States, was dedicated on October 28, 1886? Use these clues:
a) Bartholdi
b) France
c) Torch
d) Freedom

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Khushi Ramani (15), Davangere; Hanu P (15), Hubballi; Urmila (10), Belagavi.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across

1 Unable to hear (4)
3 Unable to see (5)
6 Aged 13 to 19 years (8)
8 Organ of vision (3)
9 Measuring tool (4)
11 Unable to walk (4)
14 Unwell (3)
16 Delighted (8)
18 Hut (5)
19 Unable to speak (4)

Down

1 To sup (4)
2 Professional charge (3)
4 Smallest amount (5)
5 Funeral song (5)
6 Group of players (4)
7 To consume (3)
10 Among (4)
11 Door fastener (5)
12 To banish (5)
13 Snake-like fish (3)
15 Part of the body (4)
17 The final part (3)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Deaf, 3 Blind, 6 Teenager, 8 Eye, 9 Tape, 11 Lame, 14 Ill, 16 Thrilled, 18 Hovel, 19 Dumb.
Down: 1 Dine, 2 Fee, 4 Least, 5 Dirge, 6 Team, 7 Eat, 10 Amid, 11 Latch, 12 Exile, 13 Eel, 15 Limb, 17 End.

Animals and birds in urban settings face many threats — from getting trapped in electric wires to plunging into borewells. NGOs and shelters work with skill and compassion to save them. Puja Goyal follows two rescue teams up close in Bengaluru

On the frontlines of ANIMAL RESCUE

An ARRC rescuer descends into a 40 ft well in Bengaluru to rescue a Russell's Viper.

A distress call crackles through the Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC) helpline in Bengaluru's Horamavu. In Halasuru, 12 km away, an adult kite is entangled in manja — the sharp glass-coated string used in competitive kite flying — 40 feet up on a tree in a temple compound. Subiksha Venkatesh R from ARRC alerts me, and I rush from my apartment near Bannerghatta Road to witness the rescue. By the time I get close to the location, the bird has been struggling for nearly an hour. Emmanuel Anthony, wildlife rescuer with ARRC, calls me to ask if he should wait for me. I tell him not to. Within minutes, the rescue is over, and the kite is en route to ARRC for medical care.

Later, I learn the bird's wingtip was wrapped in manja. The more it flapped, the tighter the string wound around it, trapping it in a cruel grip. The rescue tool was ingenious: a tree-cutting pole with its sickle replaced by a spring mechanism designed to release the manja. With calm precision, Vijay Gowda, one of the rescuers, worked the spring inch by inch, loosening the thread binding the bird. Finally, the bird dropped gently into a bedsheet stretched open by a bystander.

For me, the rescue highlighted a truth: while I was caught in traffic, the rescuers had reached the spot, equipped, alert, and without delay.

The next morning, I get an alert to shadow Venkatesh Ramakrishna from Charlie's Animal Rescue Centre (CARE), Kogilu Post. A maggot-infested dog has been reported in Malleswaram. Traffic stretches my 13 km drive into an hour and a half. I arrive before the rescuers, winding through lanes blocked by a shamiana pitched for a puja. People have gathered around two strays. One, lethargic but not visibly injured, is lounging on the pavement. The real emergency — the infested dog — is nowhere in sight.

The municipal van arrives. Raju Bhargav, their rescuer, nets the healthy dog first, slipping it easily into the vehicle while a bystander shuts a gate to prevent its escape. Concerned neighbours ask if the dog will return. Bhargav reassures them: "Once treated, we will release him back here."

Then comes the stench. A resident whispers, "It's under my stairs." We follow her to a dark stairwell where the second dog lies curled, its neck eaten away by infection. The smell is overpowering. Ramakrishna and fellow rescuer Hemanth Kumar move quickly. Expecting aggression, they muzzle the dog, but it offers no resistance. Then they lift the canine by its scruff and hindquarters, carrying it carefully to their van. The crowd spreads out, recoiling from the sight and smell as the dog emerges. The team secures it in a steel cage for transport.

That morning, Bhargav, Ramakrishna, and Kumar, three rescuers from different organisations who had never met, showed the essence of frontline rescue: urgency, cooperation, and the courage to confront suffering most of us cannot bear to witness.

Fear factor

According to Keerthan R P, operations manager at CARE, domestic rescues, often involving animals accustomed to human environments, are more challenging than wildlife rescues in isolated natural habitats. "A crocodile rescue might take 20 minutes, but every domestic rescue is situational. We have to deal with traffic, crowds, and distressed callers," he says.

Clearing the crowd is often the hardest part, but the first step. A perimeter is established to keep laypersons out. Col Dr Navaz Shariff, chief wildlife veterinarian and veteran rescuer at the PFA Wildlife Hospital, Uttarahalli Main Road, explains, "Honking, shouting, crowding — it escalates danger. The animal is already terrified. If we panic, it panics. If we stay calm, it calms down."

Keerthan recalls a man who hacked a Russell's Viper into three pieces while help was en route — his family was scared and wanted a quick solution. Snakes are vital to the ecosystem, but people often kill them out of fear and ignorance. "Until this changes, our work will always be half about rescue, and half about creating awareness," says Keerthan.

Thirumalesh S, also an ARRC rescuer, believes people should be educated on animal care and rescue, just like fire drills are taught in schools. He recalls someone caring for a squirrel with a broken leg. He fed it milk and fruit for five days before contacting ARRC. By the time the team arrived, the squirrel was barely breathing, but survived.

Some well-meaning interventions can harm. Milk or water given to distressed animals can choke their lungs. The advice to first responders is clear: stay calm, avoid home remedies like applying turmeric and red soil, keep a safe distance in case of snakes, and relay correct information. Keerthan says people often give inaccurate locations, fearing rescuers will charge them a fee. "These services are pro bono. Without clear information, tracking the animal later becomes impossible," he says.

CARE receives 15-20 calls a day but can respond to only 5-10. Though NGOs have support from the forest department, Animal Welfare Board, and central zoo authorities, they are often limited by funds. Misconceptions about shelters add to their strain. Many believe shelters accept abandoned or unwanted animals, but in reality, they only take in sick, injured, and infected ones.

A story Keerthan shares illustrates the stakes: "A wealthy couple once brought us five stray puppies in a box. We asked them to vaccinate the puppies first and return after 10 days. They refused and left them. The pups carried parvovirus, which spreads before symptoms show. Within days, about 40 puppies in our shelter died."

For rescuers, every animal brought in is a judgement call — admit a sick animal and risk infecting dozens of others, wiping out weeks of work, or refuse and face public anger.

But emotions can cut both ways. He recalls a kitten that had fallen 800 feet into a borewell in Banaswadi. "The rescue operation took six to seven hours. We borrowed equipment from a man who tests groundwater, used a camera with a loop leash, and pulled the kitten out. The family's patience made it possible. Ninety-nine times out of a 100, the crowd supports us. They offer us food, help, even a ride home," Keerthan says with a smile.

Suffocation risk

Once the rescue site is secured, a series of contingency plans are set into motion. Keerthan explains: "If a dog has fallen into a well, Plan A is what we do if the dog is active. Plan B is what we do if it is injured. Plan C is when oxygen is low or the crowd is exerting pressure to act fast. Plan D is if something goes wrong — say a rescuer faints, or gets bitten by the dog. But these are just benchmarks; we adapt at the scene."

If rescuers follow protocols, stay calm, and work together, the success rate is said to be 99%.

But even experience has limits. Keerthan recalls a cat trapped 25 feet down a narrow well in Girinagar. "Our coordinator Anil was suspended for an hour and a half. I volunteered to help, but within 30 seconds I had to be pulled out. I was suffocating," he says. In the end, they got the cat out.

Animal rescue is about days of immense satisfaction and days of crushing lows. Shariff's team once rescued a pregnant macaque in R R Nagar, struggling to give birth as she leapt from the trees to the walls. They sedated her, assisted the delivery, and after a month of recovery, released the mother and baby near the same apartment where she was found.

However, Keerthan's heart grows heavy when he recalls an indie dog tied to an electric pole, a wire cutting into its throat, and an abandoned Great Dane who died of kidney failure at a veterinary campus.

Abandonment hurts the most. "Shih Tzus are the most dumped breed among pets. People buy them to breed for money, hoping each puppy will fetch Rs 15,000-20,000," he says.

According to Girish A, founder of Animal Rescue Centre, Kengeri, abandoned pets rarely survive city streets. They are unable to navigate traffic or compete for food.

Despite the joy and heartbreak the job brings them, the rescuers maintain professional detachment. "If you get emotionally attached to every case, it can break you. We do multiple rescues every day," says Keerthan.

The ARRC team uses an improvised tree-cutting pole to free a kite tangled in manja. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

A lost infant bonnet macaque receives care at the PFA Wildlife Hospital.

A municipality rescuer nets a weak dog, to transport it for treatment.

Turning point

For many rescuers, a formative encounter with injured animals sparked a lifelong commitment to their welfare. As a boy, Shariff saw a street dog hit by a car and vowed to help. Keerthan began at 13, carrying a crushed puppy for treatment. Anthony recalls rescuing baby mynas with a senior at ARRC. Thirumalesh remembers guiding the safe capture of a shikra struck by a ceiling fan, and Subiksha recounts rescuing Russell's Viper hatchlings thrown from a third-floor bedroom.

Rescuers come from varied backgrounds. Shariff, a retired Army officer, once trained dogs for military use. Keerthan studied psychology and journalism before volunteering with a forest cell. Anthony trained in computer science but followed his fascination with wildlife, inspired by Australian conservationist Steve Irwin. Thirumalesh holds a bachelor's degree in arts. Subiksha, with a master's in wildlife sciences, turned her academic training into hands-on rehabilitation.

Then there are psychologists, trekkers, and climbers. At shelters, interns in their 20s work alongside veterans in their 60s. What unites them is training, patience, and a firm belief in animal rights.

Animal rescue isn't learned in a classroom — it begins at the shelter. Newcomers start by handling animals, understanding their needs, and assisting rehabilitation. Once familiar, they shadow a senior rescuer in the field before working independently. The first rule is simple but non-negotiable: keep yourself safe while protecting the animal and bystanders. Safety boots, gloves, hooks, and helmets are standard, and every rescuer is insured. While men dominate field rescues, women usually handle neonatal care and rehabilitation.

Passion drives rescuers; money rarely does. Salaries in India range from Rs 26,000 to Rs 35,000 a month — barely enough for long-term sustainability. "Our monthly expenses are around Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh. It is difficult to sustain our work without donors," says Shariff. And compassion fuels it. "A retired BMTC bus driver once brought us a broken-legged stray. He returned every week with food and money for its care," says Keerthan.

Ready to improvise

Teams work in shifts, with a rescue van always on standby. The vans can carry interlocking poles, snake hooks, soft-fiber nets, climbing harnesses, kennels, PPE kits, first-aid supplies, ladders, night vision glasses, head torches, and make-shift tools like bedsheets. Anthony assesses each case from the photos and locations sent by first informants, and then decides on the right equipment and personnel.

Rescues require improvisation as much as courage. Thirumalesh has used cranes to reach a black kite 120 feet up a tree, and worked with installation technicians to free a pigeon trapped in a signage banner. Subiksha says rescuers try to avoid damaging property but sometimes they have to slash through building nets, garden nets, or fishing nets to free snakes and birds.

Vehicles can be barriers too. Animals have been found trapped in car engines and two-wheelers. In a rare case, Keerthan's team broke down an eight-foot wall to save a cow wedged between two buildings. "The owner was understanding and supportive," he says. Occasionally, soil testers, plumbers, engineers, and electricians are called in to assist.

Intensive rehab

Saving animals is only half the battle. Rehabilitation is critical. An aeronautical engineer once helped Shariff's team create a 3D-printed prosthetic leg for a rescued peacock, which now lives in a sanctuary. In contrast, a cobra, whom they named Scarface, was released into the wild after a year of intensive care, following a complex reconstructive surgery. Construction machinery had severely crushed its face, trachea, oesophagus, and fangs. Its rehabilitation cost about Rs 75,000.

One of Shariff's most dangerous rescues involved a leopard struck by a two-wheeler. "It was taking refuge under a bus near the battery compartment. Choosing not to sedate the leopard, our team extracted it at close quarters, sustaining minor scratches and claw injuries in the process. Subsequent X-rays and scans showed no head trauma. The leopard was released at the injury site," he recalls.

Quiet lessons

In a world where one is too busy to notice a myna in flight, a sparrow sing, or a dog basking in the sun, rescuers watch out for them. They are caretakers of the voiceless. And they find the work rewarding in more ways than one. Anthony says it has sharpened his problem-solving skills. "I have learned to approach crises calmly. First, I ask 'What can I do?', then 'What should I do?'," he shares. For Subiksha, teamwork, communication, and self-awareness have been the biggest takeaways. "This work constantly challenges me to grow," she says. Above all, it gives the vulnerable another shot at life.

When I ask Subiksha about the kite freed from its manja trap a week later, she says, "The wing was luxated (dislocated) from the entanglement. We strapped it to support healing. The kite will be moved to an outdoor aviary soon to help it practise flight." Though battered, the dog at CARE remains resilient and is on the road to recovery. These quiet victories, often unseen, are proof that patience, expertise, and empathy can restore life, one wing, one paw, one heart at a time.

Like this story? Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

Agam's new album experiments with brass and percussion instruments

The Karnatik rock band's latest song was recently submitted to the Grammys, writes Rashmi Rajagopal

For close to two decades, Bengaluru-based band Agam have been redefining what is expected of Karnatik music.

The seven-member Karnatik-progressive rock group's latest track 'Flight to the summer sky' from the album 'Arrival of the Ethereal' was recently accepted by the 2026 Grammy selection committee for a possible nomination in the 'Best global music performance' category.

In 'Flight to the summer sky', Agam has explored the nagumomu kriti and similar ragas from Karnatik and Hindustani music, such as abheri and bhimpalasi. "It starts off evocative, like many of our other songs and then elements of progressive rock are introduced," says Harish Sivaramakrishnan, the lead vocalist.

The song boasts a large brass section and features musicians from Argentina, the USA, and Cuba. "Though there are different elements and genres, we have stuck to our roots in terms of the sound," he adds. The track also features Grammy winner Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, who invented and popularised the Mohan veena. About 60 people were involved in the making of the track, which begins with rudram chanting by 15 temple priests. "We submitted this song for the Grammy's because we wanted our music to reach a wider audience. Even if we do not get a nomination, we are glad to know that more people have heard it," says Swaminathan Seetharaman, keyboardist and lyricist.

Most of the other tracks in the album are also similar in their production, with one boasting a total of 150 artistes. Totally, the album features over 300 musicians from across the world with influences from orchestral music, progressive rock, jazz, and funk. Other highlights include a chenda melam ensemble, nadaswaram, tavil, and pakhawaj. The album has been eight years in the making. Some of the other tracks in the album include 'Walk of the bride' (their rendition of popular Karnatik song 'Sita kalyana vaibhogame'), which is seven minutes long, and 'The silence that remains' ('Mokashamu galada'), which runs to over eight minutes.

The Karnatik rock band was formed in 2003 by a group of college students. Apart from Sivaramakrishnan and Seetharaman, the band comprises Praveen Kumar Thiyagarajan (lead guitar), Sivakumar Nagarajan (Indian percussion), Yadunandan Nagarajan (drums), Jagdeesh Natarajan (rhythm guitar), and Aditya Kasyap (bass guitar).

The group has had a packed year so far, but is already working on a new album, which will be out in 2026.

The band recently released the album 'Arrival of the Ethereal'.

'I wanted to make a love story that breaks societal norms'

Anuparna Roy, the award-winning director who spoke up for Palestine at Venice, talks to Pranati A S about what inspired her to make a film about two women who thrive in the face of patriarchal odds

Anuparna Roy scripted history at the 82nd Venice Film Festival, which concluded in September. She won the Orizzonti award for Best Director for her debut film 'Songs of the Forgotten Trees'.

It is about two migrant women in Bombay. One is a sex worker, and the other works at a call centre. They fall in love. The film follows their struggle to express their love for each other and how they accept each others' flaws. "I always wanted to make a film, that talks about the intimacy between two women. I wanted to make a love story that breaks societal norms," Anuparna tells Showtime.

She describes the win as "over-whelming" and says the challenge now is to make her next film."Anurag Kashyap gave me a lot of advice, beyond the hierarchy of a senior and junior. He knew my strengths and flaws and guided me throughout, says the 27-year-old filmmaker. Kashyap presented the film.

Edited excerpts:

Is the film based on incidents you encountered?

Growing up in my maternal hometown, I watched my widowed grandmother — who had been married off at the age of nine to my 30-year-old grandfather — and my aunt, her stepdaughter, become close friends because they were the same age. After my grandfather's death, their bond grew stronger. They ran the entire household without the support of any male member, raising four daughters and sharing expenses, pain and happiness. That inspired me to make a film about women and their relationship in a patriarchal society.

Tell me about your journey from Purulia to Venice.

All around me, women's needs and voices were suppressed and they did not have opportunities for growth. When you don't have a voice, you begin to gather the courage to raise it. I wanted to write something about a strong woman who will dismantle the whole society. But I slowly understood the grey shades of both the genders. And I ended up writing about two women who are also grey characters. They are diplomatic, and choose to serve men. Despite that, they are no victims of society. Cinema was my only escape as a child and I always wanted to be a part of it. After my 12th grade, I realised I wanted to become a writer. My friends then encouraged me to try filmmaking.

Anuparna Roy

Did you watch a lot of films growing up?

I watched a lot of Ritwik Ghatak's films. As a child, I was not so fond of Satyajit Ray's works. It was difficult to understand the metaphor and imagery in his films. So it took some time to become a fan. But I loved Ghatak's works from the beginning. It was about marginalised people and the poverty seemed very real. I was a fan of commercial films as well. I used to watch a lot of Shah Rukh Khan's movies. I watched 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' more than 20 times just to make sure people fall in love.

What are your thoughts on machismo and misogyny in Indian cinema?

Masculinity and the male gaze in cinema have always bothered me. They show a clear sense of patriarchy coming from the directors, male and female. In my film, the main character, Thooa, is a part-time sex worker. Men continuously visit her apartment. The general assumption is that there needs to be a lot of sexual activity shown on screen. We definitely shot some, but didn't use them. I questioned myself: 'Why do I need these scenes to describe two people having sex?'. Instead, I have used something else in the film; people can call me a pseudo-feminist, but at least I tried to break the male gaze.

A lot internationally recognised films are finding it difficult to get a release in India...

Why should art suffer for the sake of nationalism? If I can get a smooth release in India, I'll be happy. If not, then it's fine. My film is beyond borders, languages and cultures. I have been called a leftist after my Venice speech where i spoke about Palestine. Talking about genocide cannot give you a political tag. No politics has ever done anything good for women. So I'm nether leftist nor rightist?

SAMUDAYA AT 50

The unbearable weight of legacy

Samudaya turned theatre into protest and prided itself on being a conscience keeper. Today, as it celebrates 50 years, it faces the challenge of staying relevant, writes Amulya B

Actors (L to R) Darshan, Shrinath, Kishan and Ajit in the 100th show of Samudaya's 'Jugari Cross', an adaptation of Poornachandra Tejaswi's work. PICS: SAMUDAYA

The story of theatre group Samudaya is incomplete without delving into the years leading up to its birth. The group introduced street plays to diverse communities, using drama to deliver social messages. Every story of Samudaya's origins starts in the 1970s — a decade charged with revolutionary energy.

In Karnataka, the '70s were marked by then-chief minister Devaraj Urs' successful implementation of the Land Reforms Act, his minister B Basavalingappa losing power for criticising upper-caste domination in literature (he called the writing 'boosa', or cattle feed), and the birth of the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti (DSS). It was also in this decade that prime minister Indira Gandhi imposed the Emergency. Samudaya was born in this context — as a direct reaction to the changing political climate.

"In Samudaya, all of us had a commitment to society," says Purushottama Bilimale, president of Karnataka (Kannada?) Development Authority. "We showed our social commitment by reacting seriously to contemporary events."

Street plays by Samudaya were hugely popular in in its early decades.

Founded on German dramatist Bertolt Brecht's conception of theatre as a tool for rational thinking rather than emotional catharsis, Samudaya took theatre from closed auditoriums to the streets.

Sanath Kumar Belagali, a journalist and previous associate of Samudaya, recalls: "The group is special because it created its own audience. From factory workers, daily wage labourers, to students, everyone started coming to watch Samudaya's plays." This cross-sectional appeal was not only represented in its audience but also in its ideology. There were Marxists, Lohiaites and Ambedkarites in its ranks.

Samudaya used theatre as a medium to comment on current affairs, addressing caste-based violence, superstition and women's issues. The group energised a whole populace from Bidar to Chamarajanagar. Though based in Bengaluru, the organisation's reach was spread across Karnataka. Vartha Patra, a monthly magazine published by Samudaya, also played a significant role in building this reach.

"At a time when there were no avenues to publish our writing, magazines like Panchama and Samudaya Vartha Patra gave us opportunities," says Bilimale. "For someone like me, sitting in Sullia, to be published in a Bengaluru magazine was an unimaginable surge of confidence."

This decentralised approach was also visible in the cultural jaathas (processions), which Samudaya pioneered. Jaathas were first held in small villages and towns, offering artistes the opportunity to express their views and deliver a social message through music, drama, and visual art. Performances that stood out would converge in Bengaluru.

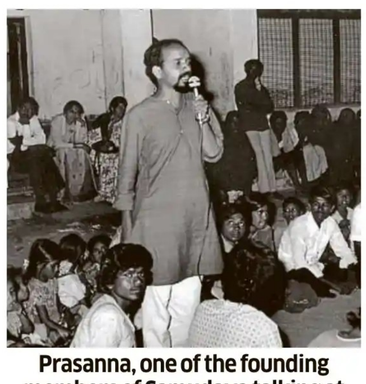
Post-'90s challenges

The nineties and the noughties were marked by the rise of Hindu nationalism, following the liberalisation of the nation's economy, and the demolition of the Babri Masjid. In 2001, the now-President of Samudaya, C K Gundanna, was attacked during a street performance that advocated communal harmony.

Such problems existed before liberalisation as well. In the '80s, a seer and his followers from Kuduremothi, Koppal, sexually assaulted two women and paraded them naked. Samudaya sought to create awareness by performing street plays across the state. Bilimale remembers playing the part of the seer and being attacked by RSS supporters. "We were smeared with cow dung and chased away from Nehru Grounds in Mangaluru," he says.

But, he adds, "The kind of problems we faced in the '70s and '80s were very different from what we face today."

Despite the insistence of many people like Bilimale, it is hard to ignore the similarities between then and now. Tyrants and so-called holy men still exploit people, and have also adapted tools of the technological era. What seems to be different today is the way progressive cultural organisations like Samudaya are reacting — or not. Responding to contemporary developments through satire and mockery used to be its approach.



Prasanna, one of the founding members of Samudaya talking at the first Jaatha in Madikeri.

In the last week of August 2025, Samudaya began its year-long celebrations, where three plays, 'Jugari Cross', 'Buddha Prabuddha' and 'Janatha Raja Shivaji', were staged. The newest among these three is a decade old.

This refusal to engage with new material plagues the Kannada amateur theatre scene, and is not restricted to Samudaya. But it becomes more evident when your identity is strongly connected to your history as a socially committed cultural movement that prided itself on reacting strongly and immediately to its time.

"Samudaya has a legacy and it has done great work in the past," says theatre person Lakshman K P. "But I think it is time to rethink their way of theatre, art, and movement — because the times have changed."

Bilimale agrees. "We have become outdated now."

Non-existent protest

Protest culture in itself has significantly changed in the state. While the Hindutva government at the centre arrests protesters and keeps them in jail without trial for half a decade, the state government has relegated protests to Freedom Park. In 2019, Gundanna had expressed his disillusionment over the people's attitude towards protest and the culture of dissent.

With the advent of social media and the media's abdication of its responsibility towards social commitment, it might appear silly to look at an amateur theatre group for the same. But, given its history, celebrating the past and basking in its glory only seems disingenuous. Introspection about possibilities in a changing world is also a necessity.

In Paul Klee's painting Angelus Novus, the angel's eyes seem to be looking at the past, while the "storm of progress" (Walter Benjamin, On the Concept of History) blows through. That's what the state of public discourse looks like today: fixated on nostalgia while the future is left uncertain. Much like Samudaya.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

A breezy addition to the 'X ki Y' franchise

ARKADEV GHOSHAL

★★★☆☆

Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Shashank Khaitan

Cast: Varun Dhawan, Jahnvi Kapoor, Sanya Malhotra, Rohit Saraf, Abhinav Sharma, Maniesh Paul

Shashank Kahitan returns with what can easily be surmised as the latest addition to the 'X Ki Y' franchise. After all, he also helmed 'Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania' and 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania'.

'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari' (SSKTK) is about as much a popcorn-muncher as the other two, and Varun Dhawan comes off as equally histrionic in all three. Extra points to Jahnvi Kapoor, who seems to have worked on her acting. However, the lead pair has little to do as the rest of the cast does not grab eyeballs and it seems like a deliberate decision. And those who could — Rohit Saraf and especially Sanya Malhotra — have significantly lower screen time.

Janhvi Kapoor and Varun Dhawan.

Not much could have been done with a story inspired by 'My Best Friend's Wedding' (1997), which gained global attention and spawned 2002's 'Mere Yaar Ki Shaadi Hai'. Khaitan once again touches on class divide as he did in 'Dhadak', but once again the topic lacks in-depth exploration.

The saving grace includes its writing, for which Khaitan shares credit with Ishita Moitra. Most of the punchy lines were used up in the trailer. But there was enough remaining, which when combined with a sparkly plot, decent storytelling and better than average dialogues makes for an entertaining watch. In the dialogues, the explanations do not become expositions, but enhance the story. However, it relies too heavily on the song 'Bijuriya'.

Overall, 'SSKTK' comes across as a lighthearted romp: It ends on a slightly problematic note, but who cares when the guy gets the gal of his 'literal' dreams?

Weak writing bogs down heartwarming family drama

JAGADISH ANGADI

★★½☆☆

Idli Kadai

Tamil (Theatres)

Director: Dhanush

Cast: Dhanush, Nithya Menen, Arun Vijay, Shalini Pandey, Samuthirakani, Rajkiran

Dhanush tends to pick sentimental family stories when he directs — evident from his 'Velaiyilla Pattadhari' (2014) to 'Thiruchitrambalam' (2022). His latest film 'Idli Kadai' explores themes of rural life, ancestral legacy, family tradition, and father-son relationships, continuing his pattern of choosing heartwarming family dramas.

Set in Sankarapuram village, the film follows Murugan (Dhanush) and his internal conflicts. 'Idli Kadai' opens with Murugan's backstory and introduces his father Sivanesan (Rajkiran), who runs a humble idli shop. To Sivanesan, the shop is a sacred space where he pours his soul to craft the perfect batter. Known for his soft idlis, Sivanesan sticks to traditional methods and serves the customers with a complete heart.

Murugan rejects his father's dream of continuing the family's tradition of running the idli shop. He secures a job as a chef in Bangkok. Murugan's employer, Vishnu Vardhan (Sathyaraj), plans to have Murugan marry his daughter, to secure the firm's future. The sudden death of his parents compels Murugan to return to Sankarapuram, just days before his wedding. He is left to decide between pursuing his dreams and preserving his family's legacy.

'Idli Kadai' kicks off on a promising note. However, with a predictable and flawed screenplay, the film falters.

Dhanush and Nithya Menen.

Logic and reasoning take a backseat in the second half. The film's sentimental and nostalgic moments fail to evoke emotional response.

Rajkiran's performance deserves high praise. Dhanush brings his usual charm and intensity to his role, balancing humour and sentiment. Nithya Menen as Kayal delivers a graceful and heartfelt performance.

While G V Prakash Kumar's music complements the narrative, Kiran Koushik's cinematography is not striking enough. Despite its flaws, it remains a watchable film.

Trolls, thrills and toxicity in Tamil OTT space

RASHMI VASUDEVA

★★★☆☆

The Game: You Never Play Alone

Tamil (Netflix)

Director: Rajesh M Selva

Cast: Shraddha Srinath, Santhosh Prathap, Syama Harini, Subash Selvam

This is a game that starts smoothly, but the coding occasionally falters. Netflix's new Tamil thriller, adapted from the French 'Le Jeu' (2018), feels timely, grappling with the hot-button issues of the day — online trolling, casual misogyny, catfishing, and the creeping dangers of a virtual world that refuses to stay in its lane.

Game designers Kavya (Shraddha Srinath) and Anoop (Santhosh Prathap) are part of a start-up where the hustle is constant, rivalries run deep, and the boss veers into toxic territory. Their games are gaining traction, but so are Kavya's battles — with male colleagues who can't digest her talent, anonymous trolls spewing bile, and a family that demands more than she can give.

The first few episodes pull you in with chapter-like cliffhangers straight out of a racy airport novel — one even ends with a bloodied stiletto. The screenplay is tight, the premise gripping, and Shraddha nails Kavya's tightrope act between steely defiance and quiet vulnerability. Chandini Tamilarasan is compelling as the sharp-eyed inspector, while stand-up comic Syama Harini adds spark as Kavya's colleague.

Shraddha Srinath and Santosh Prathap play lead roles.

However, as the series progresses, the glitches show. The mystery becomes predictable, the gaming world remains a glossy backdrop rather than an immersive universe, and the villains arrive straight from cliché land. Subplots fizzle before finding shape. Still, credit to the makers for venturing into uncharted Tamil OTT territory and keeping viewers engaged — if not fully on edge.

Echoes Of Time wins feature

MYSURU RESULTS

Pradeep Annaiah-trained Echoes Of Time, ridden by Antony Raj, won the Mysore 2000 Guineas, the feature event of the Mysore races on Friday.

1. Srirangapattana Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Gandolfini (YS Harsha) Trevor Patel 1; Chinky Pinky (Aleemuddin) 2; Natural One (Ankit Pal) 3; D Roman Reigns (Vikrant) 4; Not Run: Lex Luthor. Wb: 1-1/4, Lnk, 2-1/4L. T: 1:25.06. TB: Purushotham. Fav: Gandolfini.

2. Mandakalli Plate - 1200M: Fashionista (PM Nanaiah) Pavan 1; Real Happiness (Vikrant) 2; Cool Winter (Anil Baandal) 3; Pearl Of Mysore (J Paswan) 4; Wb: 3/4, 3/4L, Hd. T: 1:13.55. TB: P Ruban. Fav: Gismo.

3. Srirangapattana Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Dufy (JS Lokesh) Vivek 1; Blue Origin (Siddaraju) 2; Walter (NB Kuldeep) 3; El Alamein (Alex Rozario) 4; Wb: 1-1/2L, Lnk, Nk, T: 1:25.12. TB: Sriram Komadur. Fav: Dufy.

4. Justice P Madappa Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Knotty Blush (K Kamesh) Suraj Narredu 1; Star Concept (Salman Khan) 2; Winter Agenda (NB Kuldeep) 3; Metzinger (Akshay Kumar) 4; Wb: 4-1/4, Shd, 1L. 1:10.16. TB: Purushotham. Fav: Knotty Blush.

5. Mysore 2000 Guineas - 1600M: Echoes Of Time (Sultan Singh) Antony Raj 1; Money Bags (Suraj Narredu) 2; Mahler (Trevor Patel) 3; Sicyon (Akshay Kumar) 4; Wb: 4, 3-1/4, 3L. T: 1:35.16. TB: Pradeep Annaiah. Fav: Echoes Of Time.

6. Meerut Plate- 1400M: Aurele (Vishwanath Poduval) Pavan 1; Liv The Dream (Aleemuddin) 2; Connecting Dots (Antony Raj) 3; Baasha (Sachin) 4; Wb: 1/2, 3/4, 1/2l. . T: 1:23.95. TB: Feroz M Khan. Fav: Liv The Dream.

7. Penambur Plate - 1100M: Bountiful Beauty (Mrs Shirely Bobby) Prabhu Kumar 1; Adena (Faiz) 2; Knotty In Blue (Rahul) 3; Phoenix Gold (Abhishek Mhatre) 4; Wb: 3/4, 1, 2-1/2L. T: 1-06.38. TB: M.Bobby. Fav: Tower Quest.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 15w; 15, 16, 36p; Fc: Rs 39; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 40; Thp: Rs 120; Tri: Rs 1,207 & 453; Ex: Rs 6,907 & 767.

II race: Rs 86w; Rs 24, 14, 21p; Fc: Rs 315; Q: Rs 196; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 56; Tri: Rs 2,506 & 2,685; Ex: Rs 64,541.

III race: Rs 17w; 10, 32, 22p; Fc: Rs 417; Q: Rs 199; Shp: Rs 99; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 2,741 & 1,697; Ex: Rs 7,316 & 940.

IV race: Rs 20w; 11, 53, 31p; Fc: Rs 1,192; Q: Rs 491; Shp: Rs 201; Thp: Rs 70; Tri: Rs 44,308 & 2,373: Ex: Rs 56,282 & 12,060.

V race: Rs 15w; 11, 12p; Fc: Rs 23; Q: Rs 19; Shp: Rs 21; Thp: Rs 22; Tri: Rs 33 & 14; Ex: Rs 56 & 47.

VI race: Rs 271w; 43, 10, 13p; Fc: Rs 652; Q: Rs 186; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 49; Tri: Rs 1,718 & 663; Ex: Rs 18,912 & 3,898.

VII race: Rs 126w; 30, 31, 15p; Fc: Rs 2,990; Q: Rs 1,721; Shp: Rs 83; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 4,732 & 1,659; Ex: Rs 40,105 (c/o) & 17,187.

Jackpot: Rs 1,69,706 (2). **Runner-up:** Rs 3,095 (47). **I treble:** Rs 643 (12). **II treble:** Rs 9,872 (4).

Don Carlos for main event

CHENNAI SELECTIONS

Sulieman Attaollahi-trained Don Carlos, to be ridden by Trevor Patel, is fancied to win the upper division of the Frankel Cup, the feature event of the Madras races to be run over a sprint at the races on Saturday.

The first race starts at 1:20 pm.

1. Desert Warrior Handicap - 1200M: Royal Exemplar 1, Dakshin Vijay 2, Everwin 3.

2. Own Beauty Handicap - 1400M: Black Diamond 1, Balgownie 2, Chief Admiral 3.

3. Rose Bowl Plate - 1400M: Legacy 1, Larissa 2, Elsa 3.

4. Exhilaration Handicap - 1800M: Maana 1, Blue Picasso 2, Alpha Domino 3.

5. Frankel Cup (Div I) - 1200M: Don Carlos 1, Aspira 2, Rise Again 3.

6. Frankel Cup (Div II) - 1200M: Proposed 1, Mother's Grace 2, Ruling Star 3.

7. Chaitanya Chakram Handicap - 1400M: Efficacy 1, Anigraha 2, Bluemed 3.

Day's best: Maana. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

Psychic Star for feature

PUNE SELECTIONS

Psychic Star, to be ridden by G Vivek, is fancied to win the Threptin Fillies & Mares Stakes, the feature event of the Pune races to be run over a distance of nine furlongs at the races on Saturday.

The first race starts at 1:00 pm.

1. Panamera Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Seneca 1, Illusionist 2, Empower 3.

2. Gruezi Plate - 1400M: Ataash 1, Singer Sargent 2, Ultimo 3.

3. Rao Saheb Kedari Gold Trophy - 2000M: King Ke 1, Doctor Dolly 2, Treat 3.

4. October Handicap - 1200M: Darcy 1, Charlie Brown 2, Mai Tai 3.

5. Threptin Fillies & Mares Stakes - 1800M: Psychic Star 1, Thalassa 2, Queen Of Kings 3.

6. Yogender Singh Salver - 1200M: Wind Dancer 1, Silver Strike 2, Star Impact 3.

7. Panamera Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Wings Of Fury 1, Timless Fortune 2, Treasure Gold 3.

Day's best: Wings Of Fury. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st Test: India vs West Indies (day 3, 9:30 am). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

Women's World Cup: Sri Lanka vs Australia (3 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

3rd T20I: New Zealand vs Australia (11:45 am). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Leeds United vs Tottenham (5 pm), Man City vs Sunderland, Arsenal vs West Ham (all 7:30 pm), Chelsea vs Liverpool (10 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

TENNIS

Shanghai Masters: Day 4 (10 am). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

PARA ATHLETICS

World C'ships: Day 7 (9 am). **LIVE** on **DD Sports.**

MOTORSPORT

Formula 1: Singapore GP (practice 3: 3 pm; qualifying: 6:30 pm). **LIVE** on **F1Tv Pro, FanCode.**

CRICKET FIRST TEST

Triple tons pile MISERY ON WI

Rahul, Jurel and Jadeja slam 100s as India take 286-run lead

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

KL Rahul ended his agonisingly long wait for a second century at home while vice-captain Ravindra Jadeja and wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel too feasted on below-par West Indies bowling with attacking tons as India tightened the noose around the necks of their opponents in ruthless fashion here on Friday.

The seasoned Rahul, who has been in brilliant form since the start of the England series after regaining his favoured opening slot, smashed an exact 100 off 197 balls — his first century since the epic 199 against England in Chennai in December 2016 — to lay the platform for the middle order to go and put the hapless West Indies through the wringers at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

With conditions ideal for batting, the 24-year-old Jurel, coming in place of Rishabh Pant who is yet to recover from the right foot fracture he suffered in the fourth Test at Old Trafford against England, gave another exhibition of his wonderful batting abilities with a free-flowing 125 (210b) — his maiden Test century that should do his confidence a world of good.

Possibly enjoying the best phase of his cricketing life, the 36-year-old Jadeja extended his purple patch with the bat with a brilliantly crafted unbeaten 104 off 176 balls — his sixth century — as India posted 448/5 at stumps on the second day — a whopping lead of 286 runs that has firmly put them on course to taking a 1-0 series lead possibly as early as the third day.

With India resuming the second morning already in a commanding position of 121/2, West Indies needed an extremely disciplined performance with the ball and some luck if they were to make a match out of it. It looked like there was some fire in the belly of West Indies as pacers Jayden Seales and Justin Greaves elicited an edge off Rahul. Lady Luck though shone on Rahul as the first edge dissected the gap between keeper and wide first slip while the second fell just short of gully. That was perhaps the only phase where West Indies looked competitive.

Rahul and his overnight partner Shubham Gill, following the tense opening half-hour, then started to dictate play. Both went for their shots, hardly allowing any of the West Indies bowlers to settle into any sort of rhythm. Rahul even employed a reverse sweep to show the confidence that's oozing through his veins. The reverse sweep, however, ended up becoming Gill's undoing. Having watched it from the non-striker's end, the skipper too attempted the same but ended up lobbing the ball to Greaves at slip off Roston Chase.

Rahul, though, motored on smoothly without any hiccups. Shots flowed all around the ground and just before lunch he brought up his 11th Test century, celebrating the landmark with fingers inside his mouth. A second ton at home was something he was craving for and the relief was evident on his face. The right-hander, though, couldn't convert it into something big, getting out right after the break with an expansive cover drive.

If the West Indies hoped Rahul's dismissal against the run of play would give them an opening, it was not to be as Jadeja arrived and started smashing everything in his sight. The southpaw used his feet superbly against the spinners to ensure the momentum stayed with the Indians.

That confidence rubbed on to Jurel also, who looked busy from the moment he took strike. Just like most wicketkeepers in the world, he took his chances but was wise enough to pick the right balls to play the big shots. There were hardly any false shots, both from him and Jadeja, and the duo just kept heaping misery upon misery on the West Indies.

KL Rahul said the 'fingers in his mouth celebration' after reaching the three-figure mark was dedicated to his daughter on the second day of India's first Test against West Indies on Friday. PTI

SCORE BOARD

WEST INDIES (I Innings): 162

INDIA (I Innings, O/n: 121/2):

Jaiswal c Hope b Seales (54b, 7x4)	36
Rahul c Greaves b Warrican (197b, 12x4)	100
Sudharsan lbw Chase (19b)	7
Gill c Greaves b Chase (100b, 5x4)	50
Jurel c Hope b Pierre (210b, 15x4, 3x6)	125
Jadeja (batting) (176b, 6x4, 5x6)	104
Sundar (batting) (13b)	9
Extras (B-12, LB-3, NB-1, W-1)	17
TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 128 overs)	**448**

Fall of wickets: 1-68 (Jaiswal), 2-90 (Sudharsan), 3-188 (Gill), 4-218 (Rahul), 5-424 (Jurel).

Bowling: Seales 19-2-53-1, Layne 15-0-38-0 (w-1), Greaves 12-4-59-0 (nb-1), Warrican 29-5-102-1, Pierre 29-1-91-1, Chase 24-3-90-2.

DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- KL Rahul, Dhruv Jurel and Ravindra Jadeja scoring tons was the third instance of India having three batters posting hundreds in an innings this year. Other such instances in 2025 are -- Y Jaiswal, S Gill & R Pant vs England in Leeds and Gill, Jadeja & W Sundar vs Eng in Manchester
- Dhruv Jurel became the 12th Indian wicketkeeper to score a Test century with five of those players having brought up their maiden hundred against West Indies. Others being Vijay Manjrekar, Farokh Engineer, Ajay Ratra and Wriddhiman Saha.
- Rahul, in scoring his 11th Test ton, brought up only his second three-figure score at home after a gap of almost nine years (3211 days).

The not-so-easy state of being stumper Jurel

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

It's not easy being Dhruv Jurel at the moment, although the wicketkeeper doesn't openly exhibit any discomfort. Just like during the Mahendra Singh Dhoni era when a reserve stumper would get a chance to play only when the legend was unavailable, Jurel is able to don the India cap only if vice-captain Rishabh Pant is rendered hors de combat. It's similar to what Dinesh Karthik and Parthiv Patel endured for the better part of Dhoni's illustrious career.

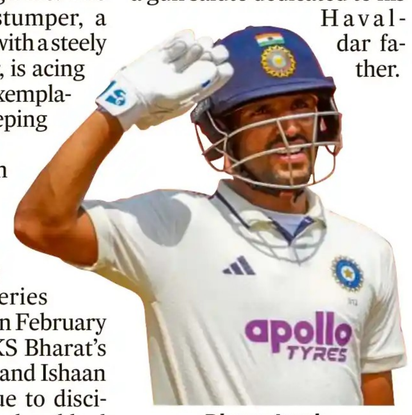
Mostly a part of the travelling jamboree as a back-up act, a chance to step onto the spotlight could come anytime, anywhere. One really needs to be on his toes always because a failure in that rare opportunity could further diminish his chances. Given the intense fight for various positions in a talent-loaded India where a couple of bad performances could push them down the pecking order, it's extremely taxing — mentally and physically.

The 24-year-old Jurel, whose Army father Nem Chand was totally against him playing the sport like most middle-class families, is living that tough life. The Uttar Pradesh stumper, a soft-spoken man with a steely interior, however, is acing the challenge in exemplary style — be it keeping or batting.

Initially not even in the picture, Jurel earned his maiden cap in the third Test of the home series against England in February 2024 following KS Bharat's failure to step up and Ishaan Kishan's exile due to disciplinary issues. Jurel grabbed it with both hands, scoring 46 in that game, followed by a game-changing 90 and 39 not out in the second Test. He only managed 15 in the third Test, but by then he'd already made a solid first impression.

Jurel gave another indication, not just of his talent but hunger and determination, with a confidence-inspiring 125 on the second day of the first Test against the West Indies at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Friday. Well aware he will be warming the benches once Pant returns from his foot fracture for the South Africa series next month, Jurel showed how perennially prepared he is with a free-flowing 125 off 210 balls — his maiden Test century. Such has been his consistency, questions even popped up on social media — displayed by the host broadcaster — if Jurel could even earn his place in the team as a pure batter. Jurel has also been on the money behind the stumps too, latching up four catches and barely missing anything in the first innings.

"It's a huge privilege even if you are not getting the chance, you are with the squad. How many get to be with the squad and how many play Test cricket," said Jurel, who celebrated his ton with a gun salute dedicated to his Haval-dar father.



Dhruv Jurel. PTI

England drub SA women

Sciver-Brunt-led team scores a 10-wicket win to begin on strong note

GUWAHATI, PTI

Relentless spinners, led by Linsey Smith, helped a dominant England outclass South Africa by 10 wickets and make a strong beginning to their ICC Women's World Cup campaign here on Friday.

Once the Smith-led England bowlers bundled out South Africa for a paltry 69, the match result was hardly ever in doubt. Smith grabbed 3/7 in the rout.

England coasted home in just 14.1 overs with openers Amy Jones (40) and Tammy Beaumont (21) doing the job for them without any trouble.

As was the case in SA's innings, there was a bit of swing and bite for the bowlers, but England batters were in no mood to enact a horror script of their own.

Veterean pacer Marizanne Kapp bowled a couple of gems to Beaumont but the total could not have been defended with such lonely pieces of magic.

But it was the England spinners — Smith, Sophie Ecclestone (2/19) and Charlie Dean (2/14) -- who were the real heroes while setting up an incredibly easy chase for their batters.

Left-arm spinner Smith led the show with an impressive three-wicket haul as South Africa were bundled out for their second lowest total in the ICC Women's World Cup.

On a pitch that offered a hint of grip to the bowlers, England, who chose to field, handed the ball to Smith (4-2-7-3) in the second over itself and the move fetched an immediate dividend.

That only Sinalo Jafta crossed two digits in South African innings revealed their struggles on the day.

Brief scores: South Africa: 69 all out in 20.4 overs (Linsey Smith 3-7, Nat Sciver-Brunt 2-5, Sophie Ecclestone 2-19, Charlie Dean 2-14) lt to England: 73/0 in 14.1 overs (Amy Jones 40 n.o.) by 10 wickets. **PoM:** Liney Smith.**Today's match:** Sri Lanka vs Australia.

England's Linsey Smith (right) celebrates after taking a South African wicket in Guwahati on Friday. PTI

Mir breaks silence after 'Azad Kashmir' remark

NEW DELHI, PTI: Former Pakistan captain Sana Mir defended her controversial "Azad Kashmir" remark during the ongoing Women's World Cup, saying it was only aimed at highlighting "the challenges" faced by batter Natalia Pervaiz during her journey from the disputed region to international cricket.

Sana Mir. X

While doing commentary in the Pakistan-Bangladesh match on Thursday, she said that Pervaiz comes from "Azad Kashmir" while describing her background. The remark was not received well by Indian fans, who pointed out that the correct term is Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), and accused Sana of making a political remark on live TV.

The Indian fans tagged the ICC and BCCI, demanding her removal from commentary.

Vidarbha extend lead over Rest of India in Irani Cup

NAGPUR, PTI: Ranji Trophy champions Vidarbha took firm control of the Irani Cup, seizing a healthy first-innings lead and then consolidating it with a solid batting effort in their second essay against Rest of India at the VCA Stadium, here on Friday.

After posting 342 in their first innings, Vidarbha bundled out Rest of India for 214 in 69.5 overs to secure a commanding lead of 128 runs.

At stumps on the third day, Vidarbha were 96/2 in their second innings, stretching the overall lead to 224 with two full days left in the contest.

Pacer Yash Thakur spearheaded Vidarbha's bowling effort with figures of 4/66, breaking the backbone of the Rest of India middle and lower order.

Left-arm spinner Parth Rekhade (2/14) and all-rounder Harsh Dubey (2/58) provided fine support, while Aditya Thakare and Darshan Nalkande chipped in with one wicket each.

The day began with Rest of India resuming at 142 for five, still trailing by 200 runs, with captain Rajat Patidar (overnight 42) their last major hope.

But Vidarbha struck in the very first ball when Thakare trapped Manav Suthar (1) lbw to set the tone.

Brief scores: Vidarbha: 342 all out & 96/2 in 36 overs (Aman Mokhade 37 n.o.) vs Rest of India: 214 all out in 69.5 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 52, Rajat Patidar 66; Harsh Dubey 2-58, Yash Thakur 4-66, Parth Rekhade 2-24).

Vidarbha's Parth Rekhade (right) picked up two wickets against ROI in the Irani Cup in Nagpur. PTI

IN BRIEF

Aayat, Jagan star for MCA

Aayat Rsahim Khan (75) and Jagan TP (2/6 & 25) stood out as Magadi Cricket Academy defeated Hill View Cricket by nine wickets in the AVR-Arjuna Cup U-14 tournament at the Sattva Global City ground on Friday, reports DHNS.

Brief scores: Hill View Cricket: 109 all out in 28.1 overs (Samarth Srikanth 49; Shishir Arvind 3-17, Jagan TP 2-6) lt to Magadi Cricket Academy: 110/1 for 6.5 Overs (Aayat Rsahim Khan 75, Jagan TP 25)

Fahrenheits: 47 all out in 16.1 overs (Jaipreeth 3-0) lt to Play Smart Cricket Academy: 50/2 in 6.5 overs (Sohum Joshi 43, Rahul Jena 2-17).

4 chess players take lead

Yuvanesh A, Venkata Naga Karthik Malladi, Isshaan A and Shashank Savanth M - all with five points after five rounds - made for a crowded leader group at the end of day two of the Karnataka State Amateur Chess Championship, reports DHNS.

Bhullar in second spot

Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar fired a brilliant five-under 65 in the opening round and followed it up with another impressive 65 on day two to climb to second place at the rain-affected Jakarta International Championship on Friday, reports PTI from Jakarta.

Bhullar sits just one shot behind Thailand's Pavit Tangkamolprasert (64-65) even though the second round is yet to be completed.

Bengaluru FC sign Kuruniyan

Bengaluru FC have completed the signing of 28-year-old winger Ashique Kuruniyan from Mohun Bagan, reports DHNS.

The 28-year-old from Mallappuram has 101 Indian Super League appearances and is returning for a second stint at BFC.

Bengaluru duo Akash and Aneesh leave their mark

ADITYA K HALDER
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The fresh crop of Indian swimmers made a splash at the Asian Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad, bagging 12 medals overall. And true to tradition, Bengaluru, the city long considered India's swimming hub, produced the lion's share of winners. While Srihari Nataraj stole the spotlight with his stunning haul of seven medals, a few other names from the city also quietly worked their way into the medal tally.

Among them were Karnataka-born youngsters and even outstation swimmers who've made Bengaluru their training home. Tamil Nadu's Thomas Benediction, who pocketed three medals, trains under India's head coach Nihar Ameen at Dolphin Aquatics. But away from the headlines, two city-born debutants — Aneesh Gowda and Akash Mani — left their own little stamp at the Championships.

Both Gowda and Mani picked up relay medals (Aneesh won a silver in 4x200m freestyle relay while Akash a bronze in 4x100m freestyle relay) and the moment meant a lot more given it was their first taste of the competition. Beyond medals and hometown pride, they share strikingly similar stories.

Both were nudged into the pool by their parents, both resisted at first, and both eventually found themselves unable to let go of the sport. Aneesh's mother initially pushed him into skating before steering him towards swimming, while Akash simply followed his siblings. Neither enjoyed the water early on, but the journey has clearly paid off.

Aneesh Gowda (left) and Akash Mani (right) pose with their coach Nataraj V at the Asian Athletics Championships.

"I didn't enjoy swimming much when I was put into it by mother," 19-year-old Akash admitted to *DH*. "I didn't take it seriously enough but gradually I started liking it, especially when I started competing. You don't always get to feel that sort of adrenaline rush elsewhere."

A former student of St Joseph's Boys' and Delhi Public School, Akash is now pursuing computer science at Jain University. While he has embraced swimming wholeheartedly, he is clear-eyed about its long-term feasibility.

"I don't think so Indian swimmers can think of becoming full-time professional swimmers, at least not yet," he said. "Swimming is not financially feasible by the time you turn 27. Saying that, I haven't thought about what I will do after swimming, I will figure that out later."

Unlike his younger teammate, 21-year-old Aneesh isn't looking too far into the future either. His eyes are fixed firmly on the immediate challenges.

"Honestly, I am thinking about Asian Games and Commonwealth Games qualification at the moment," said Aneesh, a fourth-year law student at Christ University. "Srihari and some others have done enough to match or better the top six timings from last Asian Games, I want to achieve that as well. Thankfully, I still have time to do that, perhaps at the Nationals next year."

Adding to their bond is the fact that both train under coach Nataraj V at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre.

"Two of my most disciplined boys, they always pay heed to what I have to say," Nataraj said with pride. "Akash has been training at the BAC since he was four while Aneesh has been training with me for the last seven years. Both are excellent swimmers and have the potential to achieve much more."

For now, the city that has shaped India's best swimmers can take quiet satisfaction in knowing that its next generation has already begun to make waves.

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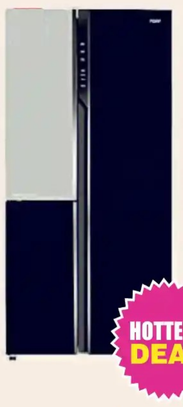

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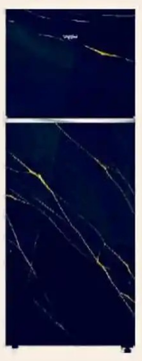

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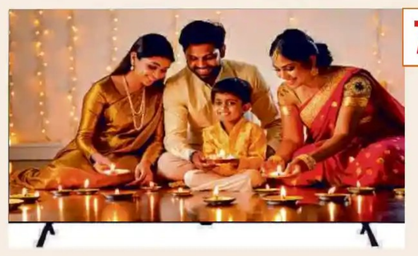

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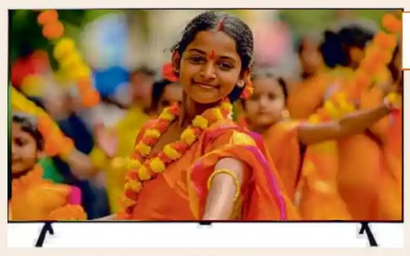

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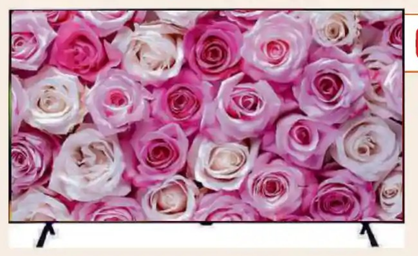

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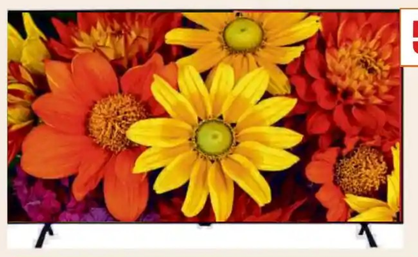

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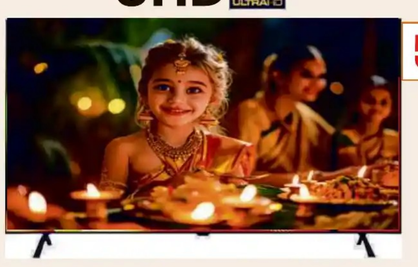

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Hengoulal's hat-trick studs MEG victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hengoulal Kipgen's hat-trick was the highlight of MEG & Centre FC's 5-0 victory over MFAR Students Union FC in round eight of the KSFA Super Division League Championship here on Friday.

After opening the scoreboard in the second minute, Hengoulal added his second in the 27th minute to give MEG & CFC a 2-0 lead at half-time. Coming out on the field after the break, he netted the third goal in the 48th minute that mounted more pressure on the opponents.

Hengoulal's teammates Aswanth TP (79th) and Gurnoor Singh (90th) kept the scoreboard ticking with a strike each to give their side a resounding win.

Results: MEG & Centre FC: 5 (Hengoulal Kipgen 2nd, 27th, 48th, Aswanth TP 79th, Gurnoor Singh 90th) bt MFAR Students Union FC: 0; Kodagu FC: 4 (Muhammed Unais M 22nd, 36th, BS Mrinal Muthanna 45th, 65th) bt Bangalore Dream United FC: 1 (K Lalrinfela 70th); BFC: 3 (Yaipharemba Chingakhanm 23rd, Ningthoi Khongjam Rishi Singh 52nd, Shamnad KP 90th+3) bt Sporting Club Bengaluru: 1 (Mohammed Safwaan 90+1st).

Kodagu FC's BS Mrinal Muthanna (right) battles for possession against Bangalore Dream United's Rodu Duo during their Super Division clash. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

WEIGHTLIFTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Super Chanu bags silver for 3rd medal

Indian clears 84 kg in snatch, 115 kg in clean & jerk for a total lift of 199 kg

FORDE (NORWAY), PTI

Mirabai Chanu won a silver medal in the 48kg category at the World Championships in Norway. PTI FILE PHOTO

Star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (48kg) clinched a silver medal at the World Championships in the 48kg category here, extending her glittering record in the marquee event where she has been on the podium twice earlier.

The 2017 world champion and 2022 silver-medallist produced a total lift of 199kg (84kg in snatch + 115kg in clean and jerk) to be among the medal winners after moving down from the 49kg division.

Chanu struggled in snatch, failing twice at 87kg, but regained her rhythm in the clean and jerk, successfully executing all three attempts.

A former world record holder in clean and jerk, Chanu completed lifts of 109kg, 112kg and 115kg with ease.

The last time she lifted 115kg was at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 where she won a silver medal.

"I'm happy to finish on the podium, it gives me great confidence for the year ahead, especially after my previous performance at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in August," Chanu said.

"Every competition is part of my preparation towards the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, and the upcoming Commonwealth Games and Asian Games will be crucial milestones on that journey. I'm focused on working hard, learning from each outing, and giving my best for the country."

Chief coach Vijay Sharma said Chanu's podium finish at the World Championships was a reflection of her consistency and commitment.

"This is just the start of a very important phase in her career, with Commonwealth Games and Asian Games next year serving as key tests before the LA Olympics," he said. North Korea's Ri Song Gum won the gold with a commanding 213kg effort (91kg + 122kg), setting new world records in total as well as clean and jerk with her last two lifts of 120kg and 122kg. Thailand's Thanyathon Sukcharoen settled for bronze with a total of 198kg (88kg + 110kg).

Manish, Keerthivassan to fight for men's title

NEW DELHI, PTI: Manish Sureshkumar and Keerthivassan Suresh set up the men's singles final against each other while Vaishnavi Adkar and Akanksha Nitture will clash for the women's top prize after winning their respective semi-finals of the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship here Friday.

In the women's singles, top seed Vaishnavi from Maharashtra was in ruthless form as she dismissed fourth seed Soha Sadiq of Karnataka 6-1, 6-0.

Akanksha recorded a come-from-behind 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 win.

Golden glitter for Nishad, Simran

With 6 gold, 5 silver, 4 bronze, India jump to fourth on medals table

NEW DELHI, PTI

India's Nishad Kumar cleared 2.14m to win gold with an Asian record in the men's high jump T47 final in New Delhi on Friday. REUTERS

Nishad Kumar and Simran Sharma won their maiden World Para Athletics Championships gold in high jump and 100m race respectively, as India clinched four medals to jump to fourth spot on the most productive day here on Friday.

Preethi Pal and Pardeep Kumar added a bronze each in the 200m and discus throw respectively, swelling India's tally and pushing the hosts three places up from seventh.

India now have six gold, five silver and four bronze in total. With two more days left in the competition, the hosts are on course to better their best medal haul of 17 achieved in Kobe 2024 (Japan).

Brazil continued to lead the table with 12 gold, 18 silver and 7 bronze, followed by China (9-16-13) and Poland (8-2-5).

Delhi girl Simran clinched India's first gold of the day, winning the women's 100m T12 final with a personal best time of 11.95 seconds for her maiden title in the event.

She had won gold in the 200m event in the last edition in Japan and a bronze in the 2024 Paralympics. She will also run in the 200m here.

Liang Yanfen of China won the silver with a time of 12.11 seconds while Spain's Nagore Folgado Garcia took the silver, clocking 12.11 seconds.

The T12 category is meant for athletes who have visual impairment, and Simran ran with her guide Umar Saifi.

For Nishad, it was a double delight as he won the men's high jump T47 event on his 26th birthday.

He cleared 2.14m to win the gold with an Asian record.

It was also his maiden gold in either Paralympics or world para championships.

He won a silver each in the Tokyo and Paris Paralympics, a bronze in the 2019 world championships and a silver in the 2023 edition.

"I have been waiting for this day for a year. I have been working very hard for this day. Today is the day. I have given my best. It's God's will. No one can stop me," said Nishad.

"I already have silver medals. I have kept it on my rack. I haven't seen them since I kept it on my rack. I have been waiting for this gold medal for many years.

"I was ready for it. I had written in my diary that I will do it (win gold) today."

His victory was all the more special as he beat USA's Roderick Townsend, the five-time defending champion and three-time Paralympic gold medallist. Townsend managed only 2.03m for bronze, while Turkiye's Abdullah Ilgaz took silver with 2.08m.

"It was a big achievement for me. I beat him for the first time in my life. I saw him for the first time in Rio 2016.

Coaches each from Kenya, Japan bitten by stray dog

In an embarrassing incident for the organisers, stray dogs bit coaches from Kenya and Japan in separate incidents during the World Para Athletics Championships here on Friday.

Both victims, though, are out of danger after being treated at a nearby hospital.

Kenyan coach Dennis Maragia was speaking to one of his athletes outside the competition arena of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, when a stray dog suddenly came and bit him, an official said.

Later, the organisers also informed that Japanese coach Meiko Okumatsu was also bitten by a stray dog while she was supervising training of her athletes at the warm-up track adjacent to the main competition area.

The organisers said both the coaches were immediately attended to and provided on-spot medical attention.

Sarthak, Nagaraj take pole positions

BENGALURU, DHNS

Sarthak Chavan, the 18-year-old from Pune and Petronas TVS Racing team's spearhead, shrugged off a crash in the free practice session, to snatch the pole position by topping the qualifying in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category in the fourth round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2025 at the Madras International Circuit.

Meanwhile, 29-year-old businessman from Bengaluru, Jagadeesh Nagaraj **(in pic)** (Motul Sparks Racing) clinched his maiden National Championship pole position in the Stock 301-400cc (Novice) category ahead of some championship front-runners while two Thiruvallur riders Mohamed Mikail and Shyam Sundar qualified for P2 and P3, respectively.

If you believe an education should offer more than just a degree.
If you seek holistic learning that challenges convention.
If you dream of leaving the world better than you found it.
If you seek mentors who inspire, not just instruct.
If you're restless for opportunities that match your ambition.
If you want to master your field, not just graduate in it.
If you're driven by a higher purpose, this is for you.

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DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, October 4, 2025

Wknd.

Cheerful spaces with textures and colour

FESTIVE AMBIENCE P04

ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

WHAT THE STARS SAY...

PAGE 02

SUGAR ISN'T ALWAYS SWEET FOR YOUR SKIN!

PAGE 03

Gifts your guests will cherish

Shilpi Madan has some tips to help you choose a memorable gift for your guests this festive season

Festive **Gifts**

Giveaways at parties and family gatherings at home are in vogue. Looking at gifting a special something to your loved ones? Cue in.

LIGHT UP

With Diwali around the corner, a beautifully-packaged box of hand-painted diyas, or a line-up of tealights makes for a perfect gift. There are candles in the shape of diyas, and golden metal light holders that are great festive picks.

Take this moment to lend a helping hand to NGOs for their festive creations.

COLOURFUL SPREAD

A pre-made rangoli in wood or

clay with inserts for diyas and flowers is a welcome gift. Handmade torans, decorative auspicious danglers for the doorway, the traditional Goddess Lakshmi feet, and symbols of festivals in gold and vermilion can go into the making of a small bag of gifts.

TRAY MAGIC

Make way for artisanal dark chocolates, Kashmiri saffron, small limited-edition ghee jars and fusion mithai. Bring in a selection of hot sauces, muffins and teacakes, dates, cardamom and misri to line up pretty trays decorated with dry flowers and potpourri. Ornate thalis can replace modern trays too for a touch of traditional.

BREW POINT

Matcha favourites and artisanal coffee make for super picks. Celebrate the festive season with plant-based sips and brews from the tea estates with cherry and nutmeg flavours, warm cinnamon accents, perfect for the winter season. Team up with pralines and chocolate barks.

SELF-CARE CADDY

Nothing succeeds like self-love. Choose floral body oils, essential oils with healing properties, a bunch of facial oils to gift goodness. Cold pressed oils for daily intake are a fabulous pick, as are manuka honey jars and ashwagandha brews for better sleep.

Aster Hospitals brings laser angioplasty to Karnataka

This technology brought to Karnataka for the first time by Aster Hospitals is a game-changer for patients with multiple or complex blockages

This World Heart Day the message is loud and clear – 'don't miss a beat'. It's a call to action to prioritise heart health, embrace preventive care and seek timely treatment. According to Prof Dr Nagamalesh U M, Lead Consultant – Cardiology and Interventional Cardiology, Aster Hospital, Bengaluru, the day serves as a vital reminder to take your heart seriously.

"Heart health is about awareness and action," he says. "From improving your diet to exercising regularly, quitting smoking and keeping conditions such as diabetes and high cholesterol under control, prevention is key to reducing cardiovascular deaths."

Rising heart disease among the young

Over the past few years, there's been a concerning rise in complex heart cases among younger individuals, even those who appear physically fit. "We are seeing more patients under 40 with serious heart issues," says Dr Nagamalesh. Sedentary lifestyles, weight gain, poor diet, smoking and unmanaged conditions such as diabetes are major contributing factors.

Many young patients mistake heart attack symptoms for acidity or gastritis, which can prove fatal. "If you experience persistent chest pain, breathlessness, sweating or pain radiating to the arm or jaw, don't ignore it," he cautions. "Get checked immediately, especially if you are above 40."

Revolutionising heart care with laser angioplasty

Aster Hospitals is the first to bring laser angioplasty technology to Karnataka, making it a game-changer for patients with multiple or complex blockages.

"Traditional angioplasty uses balloons or stents to open blocked arteries," explains Dr Nagamalesh. "But when the blockage is very hard, calcified or involves blood clots, it becomes difficult to treat. Laser angioplasty uses laser energy to precisely vaporise plaque or blood clots, offering a safer and more effective solution."

The benefits of laser angioplasty are profound:

- Avoids the need for open-heart or bypass surgery in many cases.
- Minimises hospital stay – patients can often return home in 24-48 hours.
- Faster recovery and improved quality of life.
- Treats blockages that traditional methods cannot.

"This technology allows us to treat the most complex cases while reducing risks and improving outcomes," says Dr Nagamalesh.

One-stop destination for advanced heartcare

From complex interventions and laser angioplasty to artificial heart implants and heart transplants, Aster

Prof. Dr. Nagamalesh U M

Hospitals in Bengaluru is equipped to handle even the most advanced heart conditions. "Our goal is to ensure that patients don't need to travel outside the state for advanced heart treatments," says Dr Nagamalesh.

Importance of prevention

Dr Nagamalesh's advice this World Heart Day – September 29 – is simple, yet powerful. "Start preventive care early. Don't wait for symptoms. Regular health check-ups, a balanced diet, exercise, quitting smoking, and managing diabetes and cholesterol, can prevent most heart attacks", he says.

By bringing laser angioplasty to Karnataka, Aster Hospitals has taken a bold step forward in heartcare – ensuring that when it comes to saving lives, you truly don't miss a beat.

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Wknd.

DIWALI SPIRIT

A thoughtful gift this festive season is a membership to a gym or yoga centre

HEALTHY GIFT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

GO GREEN

While you choose memorable gifts for loved ones and guests, a sapling will make a 'green gift' that will stay with the person for a long time. Planted and grown at home, the sapling will be a lasting memory both of you will cherish. Pick a plant that is easy to nurture and manage even in a small garden.

MINDFUL SHOPPING

Encourage and help local artisans and small hawkers while going about your festival shopping. Buying from small traders, especially those in need, is a way of lending a helping hand while shopping for the festival too. Rather than bargain, think of the price as a gift to someone in need.

DEEPA NATARAJAN LOBO CHECKS OUT WHAT DIWALI HOLDS FOR SOME SANDALWOOD STARS

What the stars say...

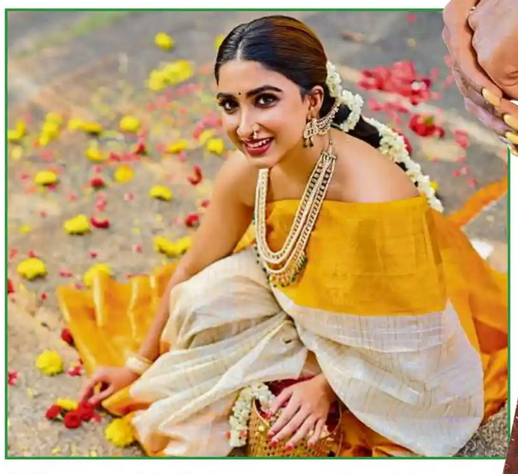
It will be my eight-month-old daughter's first Deepavali, so the excitement is double this time. In today's times, when the world feels so uncertain, festivals like Deepavali remind us of the importance of spreading love, light and positivity. I also love the fact that it stretches across three days - giving us more time to celebrate, bond, and of course, indulge in all the festive food. I'm a foodie, so I look forward to the kheer, obbattu and all the other festive desserts.
Rishi

I absolutely love this time of the year because it brings both Dasara and Deepavali together, and that means positive energy and cherished family moments for me. I keep things simple with puja and spending time with loved ones. I also enjoy dressing up and attending festive parties with friends and family. Overall, it's a joyful and meaningful season for me.
Anjali Anish

Festivals have always been a major part of my childhood. We grew up watching the grandeur of Dasara. For me, the highlight of Deepavali has always been the crackers — especially the loud atom bombs. Even now, the fun begins a week before the festival, just watching and bursting fireworks with friends. Of course, the food is equally special – haalu obbattu, kosambari and a variety of palyas are all part of our festive spread.
Priyanka Kumar

For me, Deepavali has always been about dressing up, enjoying a big festive spread - 'habbada oota' with obbattu, vada, chitranna, pulav and payasa. I usually start planning my outfits a month in advance as I never know how many gatherings I'll end up attending. When I was a child, Deepavali was always celebrated at my thatha and ajji's house, or at Shivanna mama's place. In recent years, it has become quieter, visiting close friends and playing games.
Dhanya Ramkumar

This year's Deepavali feels extra special since I became a father in August - our daughter's first festival makes it truly memorable. I usually stick to a diet, but during festivals I make an exception for traditional sweets like obbattu. I love lighting deepas and keeping the celebrations simple at home.
Ritvvikk Mathad



Deepavali is all about community spirit – everyone coming together, sharing food and laughter. At home, we go all out with festive cooking, from kheer to chitranna and endless sweets – it's the one time we don't think about diet! But the most magical part is lighting traditional diyas with oil and battis – their warm, flickering glow makes the whole house feel grounded and divine, in a way electric lights never can.
Saanya Iyer

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

EVERY FIGHTING UNIT HAS ITS "ACHILLES HEEL"
WITH US, IT'S BEETLE'S BUNIONS"
MY FEET HURT!
GREG + MORT WALKER
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4/24

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

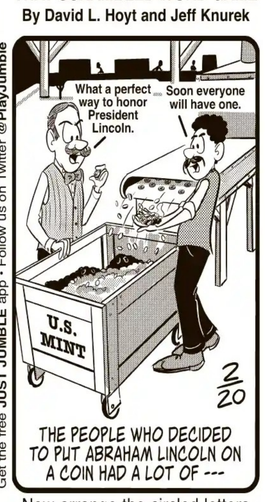
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUMHO

NUYFN

NECCIS

DMAWOE



THE PEOPLE WHO DECIDED TO PUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN ON A COIN HAD A LOT OF ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____"

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Answers

MOUTH FUNNY SCENIC MEADOW

The people who decided to put Abraham Lincoln on a coin had a lot of — COMMON "CENTS"

HITORI-116

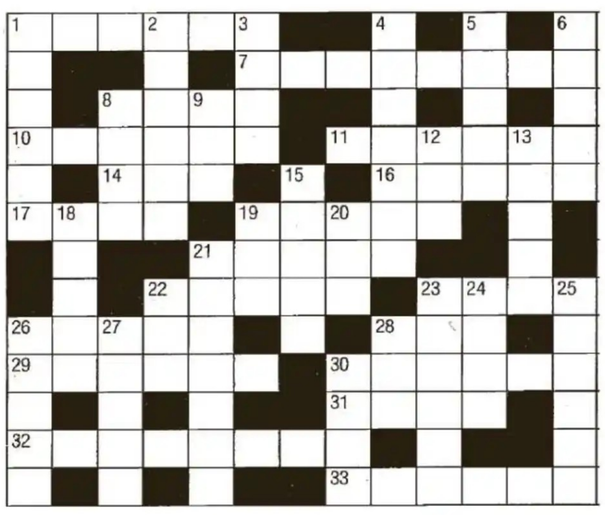
6	6	1	5	8	3	7	4
6	1	2	3	4	7	8	5
6	7	6	1	5	8	6	7
4	3	6	5	4	2	1	8
4	2	4	6	1	4	4	7
1	8	7	4	5	3	4	2
7	5	4	8	6	5	3	5
5	5	8	7	5	4	2	1

SOLUTION for HITORI-116

1	2	4	■	7	8	5	■
■	3	5	6	8	4	■	7
2	■	3	■	4	7	8	1
7	4	■	1	6	■	2	■
8	1	2	■	5	6	3	4
■	6	8	5	1	■	7	■
5	8	7	4	3	2	1	6
■	7	■	8	■	1	6	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 117



EASY

ACROSS
1 Spanish dish (6)
7 Slaughter (8)
8 Meat spread (4)
10 Catchword (6)
11 Fee (6)
14 Belonging to us (3)
16 Girl's name (5)
17 Land measure (4)
19 Hector (5)
21 Calm (5)
22 Military instrument (5)
23 Wash oneself in this (4)
26 Bulgarian capital (5)
28 Beseech (3)
29 Paltry (6)
30 Snapper's device (6)
31 Burden (4)
32 Falls back (8)
33 Dozen (6)

DOWN
1 Fluid part of blood (6)
2 Class (6)
3 Prayer ending (4)
4 Mineral pitch (7)
5 Derision (5)
6 Brawl (5)
8 Not rich (4)
9 Seaman (3)
12 Whichever (3)
13 Huge person (5)
15 Put up (5)
18 Light boat (5)
19 Small insect (3)
20 Sheltered side (3)
21 Argument (7)
22 Large (3)
23 Confuse (6)
24 Relatively long time (4)
25 Funeral car (6)
26 Knowing smile (5)
27 Adipose (5)
28 Forbid (3)
30 Price (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 They may be wide open for the head of staff to take steps (6)
7 High cost of loam? (3,5)
8 A highly noteworthy region of Scotland (4)
10 Beer or punch (6)
11 Dance the minuet in quick time! (6)
14 Over five missing (3)
16 Arrangement making TV more expensive? (3-2)
17 Deluded heartlessly, in fact (4)
19 Acted as trainee (5)
21 Beaten on board! (5)
22 Is carried right on the wrong side! (5)
23 Weapon historically used in riot control (4)
26 Convicts see a bit of it in Dartmoor (5)
28 One case of peas (3)
29 Underground? It was before road transport! (6)
30 and 31. Average lifespans in historic times? (6,4)
31 See 30.
32 Strange spectres, in various regards (8)
33 Go to France, perhaps, with a letter from Maurice (6)

DOWN
1 Cooked horseflesh out West (6)
2 Like a spring you want to see lubricated? (6)
3 Stephen has no female to walk with (4)
4 Invented with some vision, indeed! (7)
5 Making one run round the bend seems fishy! (5)
6 What the bird said when put in the pet-shop sale? (5)
8 Little woman noted for being icy (4)
9 In favour of some deforestation? (3)
12 Is this result your ultimate catch? (3)
13 It is, and contains, a piece of uniform (5)
15 Appointments to eat? (5)
18 Very young, but already a slippery customer (5)
19 Roguish ADC, possibly (3)
20 Some French boy (3)
21 Signs the ministry employs (7)
22 A little bird takes him in (3)
23 The city of today's girl? (6)
24 Puts on commercials, sound only (4)
25 Bit ofmoneyfor a revolutionaryfuelthat's really spectacular!(6)
26 Many listeners are nice old souls (5)
27 A few lines from overseas (5)
28 It has a hairy tail (3)
30 Upright part of a Christmas tree (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 117

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, S-paces 7,The earth 8, Fife 10, Wallop 11, Minute 14, O'er 16, Set-up 17, De-ed 19, Cadet 21, Mated 22, R-ides 23, Mace 26, Devon 28, Pod 29, Ere-bus 30, Middle 31, Ages 32, Respects 33, T-Ravel.
DOWN: 1, Ste-W-ed 2, C-oiled 3, Step 4, De-vis-ed 5,Tro-U-t 6, Cheep 8, Flo-E 9, For 12, Net 13,T-uni-c 15, Dates 18, Elver 19, Cad 20, Des 21, Min-uses 22, Rob(-in) 23, Mod-Ena 24, Adds (ads) 25, Ey-eful 26, D-ears 27, Verse 28, Pig 30, Mast. 27, Fatty 28, Ban 30, Cost.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Paella 7, Massacre 8, Pate 10, Slogan 11, Charge 14, Our 16, Annie 17, Acre 19, Bully 21, Quiet 22, Bugle 23, Bath 26, Sofia 28, Beg 29, Meagre 30, Camera 31, Onus 32, Retreats 33, Twelve.
DOWN: 1, Plasma 2, League 3, Amen 4, Asphalt 5, Scorn 6, Melee 8, Poor 9,Tar 12, Any 13, Giant 15, Build 18, Canoe 19, Bug 20, Lee 21, Quarrel 22, Big 23, Because 24, Ages 25, Hearse 26, Smirk 27, Fatty 28, Ban 30, Cost.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. FESTIVE TIME

Add a few drops of sandalwood or orange essential oil to your diyas or urli bowls - your home will glow and smell divine at the same time

AROMA THERAPY

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

BRASS CHARM

Swap plastic for brass vessels filled with marigolds and roses. Place them at entrances or dining tables for a regal, timeless vibe. You can pair them with floating candles to bring in warmth and a golden glow that complements traditional outfits and festive lights beautifully.

DIYA DECOR

Clay diyas never go out of style, this year, make them stand out with a twist. Paint them in metallic shades, add glitter rims, or place them on mirrored coasters for extra sparkle. Line them with ghee or coconut oil for a longer, cleaner burn and a radiant festive glow.

Taste the world of tapas at Tapeo

Tapeo, the global tapas bar and dining destination at DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Bengaluru Outer Ring Road, located in the bustling Marathahalli–Bellandur–Sarjapur Road corridor, has emerged as a highlight of the city's dining scene. With its eclectic menu, inventive cocktails and vibrant ambience, Tapeo offers a fresh and memorable way of experiencing global tapas flavours.

At Tapeo, dining is about sharing and connection. Each dish is thoughtfully crafted to spark conversation and create moments of togetherness. The menu blends authenticity with creativity, featuring dishes such as Patatas Bravas, Calamares A La Romana and Singapore Cereal Prawns alongside signatures like Active Charcoal Lamb Tacos, Mascarpone and Young Spinach Rotolo, Dukkah-Crusted Grilled Lamb Chop, and the indulgent Nandi Hills Sunrise Platter.

The beverage programme is just as distinctive. Guests can enjoy cocktails like Alphonso, Gi-Gi-Di, Yuzu Picante, Saffron Negroni, Kefi and Shibui, or opt for refreshing zero-proof blends including Back in Black, Coco Melon, and Orange & Pome Bramble. To celebrate this focus on innovation, Tapeo also hosts Honors Mixology Workshops. This exclusive workshop is designed for Hilton Honors members, giving them the opportunity to learn the art of crafting signature cocktails under the guidance of skilled mixologists and turn cocktail-making into a lively social experience.

The setting enhances the culinary journey. Rich textures, gold detailing and nature-inspired accents infuse the interiors with warmth and energy, while sculpted ceilings and ambient lighting make the space equally suited for intimate evenings or spirited gatherings.

"Bengaluru thrives on creativity and diversity, and Tapeo captures that spirit through its global tapas concept and mixology experiences. Our aim is to offer guests more than just a meal - we want every visit to be immersive, interactive and unforgettable," said Akash Kalia, General Manager, DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Bengaluru Outer Ring Road.

With its bold cuisine, inventive drinks and engaging events, Tapeo stands out as a must-visit destination for those seeking dynamic flavours and a vibrant atmosphere in the heart of Bengaluru.

Tapeo, DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Bengaluru Outer Ring Road
For reservations call: +91 9606 082 301, +91 8050 887 487
Email: BLROR_FB@Hilton.com

Energy boost for your shopping spree

Juice one orange and half a pomegranate, add a pinch of Himalayan salt. This antioxidant-rich combo replenishes potassium and Vitamin C, supports immunity and reduces fatigue. The natural sugars give a mild energy kick, making it a perfect morning or a post-shopping spree drink that also tastes like a treat. It's just what you need to keep your festive shopping going.

DHARMA PRODUCTIONS
Dharma Productions & Mentor Disciple Entertainment present
a Dharma Productions film
Sunny sanskari ki Tulsi kumari
directed by Shashank Khaitan
produced by Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta & Shashank Khaitan
co-producer Marijke deSouza story, screenplay Shashank Khaitan dialogues Shashank Khaitan & Ishita Moitra
IN CINEMAS NOW
a Dharma Productions Worldwide release
SONY MUSIC
FARNAZ

Sugar isn't always sweet for your skin!

Don't let the festive treats take a toll on your skin. Dermatologist **Dr Mukta Sachdev** has some advice

Skincare support

Stick to a consistent routine with gentle cleansing, hydration and sunscreen. For acne-prone skin, a salicylic acid or benzoyl peroxide cleanser can help keep break-outs at bay.

Skin Care

Diwali brings joy, light and togetherness - and often a generous helping of sweets. From laddoos and barfis to chocolates and desserts, sugar is at the heart of the celebrations. While enjoying festive treats is part of the tradition, excessive sugar intake during this season can take a toll not only on overall health but also on the skin. A post-festive rise in skin complaints such as dullness, break-outs and flare-ups of chronic conditions are often seen.

How sugar affects skin

The primary concern with high sugar consumption is a process called glycation. When excess sugar circulates in the blood, it binds to proteins like collagen and elastin - the very fibres that keep skin firm, smooth and youthful. This reaction creates advanced glycation end products (AGEs), which damage collagen, reduce elasticity and accelerate signs of ageing such as fine lines, sagging and uneven texture.

In addition, sugar triggers spikes in insulin levels. Elevated insulin increases oil (sebum) production and inflammation, two major factors in the development of acne and break-outs. This explains why many people notice pimples or skin congestion after a festive week of indulgence.

Diwali sweets symbolise joy and togetherness, and they certainly deserve their place at the table. But remembering that skin is often the first organ to reflect internal imbalance is important. Excess sugar during the festive season can speed up skin ageing, trigger acne and worsen inflammatory conditions. By practicing moderation, making conscious food choices, and seeking professional skincare where needed, you can enjoy the glow of the festivities without sacrificing your skin's natural radiance.

Cut sugar the easy way

- **Portion control:** Instead of multiple servings, savour one small sweet mindfully.
- **Choose wisely:** Opt for homemade or less-processed options made with jaggery, dates or nuts, which have a lower glycaemic impact.
- **Stay hydrated:** Drink plenty of water or herbal teas to flush out excess sugar and maintain skin hydration.
- **Balance your plate:** Pair sweets with protein-rich foods to slow sugar absorption.

Existing skin conditions

Excessive sweets don't just affect those prone to acne. Conditions like rosacea, eczema and psoriasis may flare up due to sugar's inflammatory effects. People often report heightened redness, itching or flare-ups after over-indulging in festive desserts.

For those with sensitive or reactive skin, moderation becomes especially important.

Stress factor

It is not just sugar itself, but also the associated lifestyle shifts during Diwali - late nights, fried foods and reduced water intake - that further burden the skin. Dehydration combined with sugar overload can leave your skin looking dull, tired and more prone to irritation.

Skincare for the season

For those who want to restore their post-festive glow, dermatology now offers advanced, minimally-invasive treatments that work quickly and effectively. Hydra facial and oxy-infusion therapies help detoxify and rehydrate skin after excess sugar and late nights. Laser toning and light-based treatments are excellent for reducing post-festive pigmentation and dullness.

For those concerned about sugar-related ageing, skin boosters with hyaluronic acid and collagen stimulators can replenish hydration and improve firmness. The key is personalisation - choosing the right treatment depending on whether the concern is acne, dullness or early fine lines.

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FESTIVE CHEER

Fabrics are a great way to bring in the festive ambience. Colour coordinate your drapes, cushion covers and tablecloths for maximum impact

FESTIVE CHEER

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

CREATE A FOCAL POINT

A centrepiece in the living area spells festive time. If you had an arrangement of idols during Dasara, retain some elements of it through the Diwali season. Give it a different theme and create a focal point with the arrangement as the highlight.

RANGOLI SAYS IT ALL

A large rangoli in the living area brightens your living room and adds the festive spirit you are looking for in your decor. Create a colourful rangoli using flowers, leaves and diyas. Ensure it is away from corridors and spaces with high traffic. It will serve as a centrepiece in the living room through the festive season.

Festive **Cheer**

Aroma stations

The fresh aromas so common through the festive season are always a delight. You can create corners that serve as 'aroma centres' around the home. Use dried orange slices, cinnamon sticks aromatic candles or pine sprigs. Let the aroma from these arrangements breeze through the house.

FLOATING LIGHTS

Lights floating on water is a mesmerising sight – outdoors or indoors. Create a centrepiece using a table with a large bowl or tray filled with water. Float diyas on the water. You can use some pebbles or potpourri as decor elements and make an arrangement. You can be sure it will be a focal point and conversation piece with your guests.

MEMORY LANE

Bring out your old photographs, especially yesteryears' celebrations of Diwali and Dasara. Create a collage of the photographs and enhance with fabrics or lighting. Old photographs are always a point of interest and conversation starters. If you are hosting a party at home, you can rest assured your guests will delight in listening to the stores behind each photo.

Throw some colour

Cushions with colourful covers are a great way to enhance your interiors. Use a collection of throw pillows on your living room seating. These add-ons to your furniture are an easy way to infuse your living room with colour and brightness that's just right for the festive season decor. Get covers with embroidery and mirrorwork for some festive cheer.

TINKLE OF BELLS

The sound of tinkling bells is always a treat for the ears. Through the festive season, they add to the ambience at home. Use wind chimes on doors and balconies exposed to outdoors. Their tinkle every time there is a light breeze will add to the festive cheer. Get wind chimes that emit different sounds for variety.

Cheerful spaces with textures and colour

Deepa Natarajan Lobo gets some ideas from a couple of designers

Festive **Ambience**

As the days grow shorter and the temperature gently dips, there is a special warmth that begins to fill homes across India. It's a time when families come together, hearts open and the spirit of Deepavali lights up not just our surroundings but also our lives. This Festival of Lights is more than traditions and rituals - it's also about creating moments of joy, reflection and togetherness that linger long after the diyas have been extinguished. Homes transform into cherished retreats, welcoming loved ones with not just sweets and festive treats but also open arms and festive cheer.

Decor plays a central role in this transformation, with fabrics, textures and colours adding layers of opulence to every corner of the home. From rich silks and velvets to intricate brocades and shimmering metallics, the right choices can instantly elevate interiors into festive masterpieces.

This festive season, we get a couple of decor experts to share their insights on festive fabrics, colour palettes and creative touches - helping you bring in the season with elegance, grandeur and a style that reflects both tradition and modern living.

Go for neutral with a touch of pop

"Go for monochromatic cushion covers with a touch of bright hues such as blue, red or pink", advises Pratiksha Taparia, a tablescape designer. "For the table, avoid overdoing with runners and mats - keep it neutral and let the pops of colour shine".

Think beyond the table

Pratiksha highlights that while many focus on decorating living and dining areas, other spaces in the home often get overlooked during festive preparations. Refreshing and bright fabrics in spaces beyond the living room enhances the overall festive mood, making every corner feel special.

"Bedrooms can be made festive with fresh quilt covers and pretty bedsheets. Even small details like floral pillow covers can make a big difference," she points out.

Add a sustainable touch

According to luxury events designer Ipsa Gupta, sustainability is becoming a significant part of festive decor. "Many people are gravitating towards more intricate, handcrafted and eco-friendly elements. Clay pots, fabrics, vegetables, fruits and flowers are being used in creative ways. Even a saree can be repurposed as a table cover or curtain", she says.

Pratiksha agrees and adds, "Decor doesn't always mean buying new things. Shot glasses can double as tealight holders, old wine bottles can be turned into flower vases and the entrance can be lit up with diyas to create a warm first impression."

Keep it simple, yet cultural

Ipsa suggests drawing from everyday items and heritage influences. "You really don't need much to create an authentic, cultural touch. Leaves and flowers from your own garden can be arranged beautifully in versatile ways. Humble flowers like roses and mogra always bring in festive vibes," she observes and adds, "Bright dining table setups are also a growing trend -think block-printed runners and small puja elements such as bells that you already own, and you will have the perfect festive setup."

Wedding in a frame

Shilpi Madan speaks to a couple of shutterbugs for some ideas on how you choose one for your big day

Say **Cheese**

Everyone loves an Instagrammable wedding. With people coining hashtags and drip feeding pre-shaadi reels in the run-up to their big day, photographs and videos are taking centrestage as the bride and groom are shooting more for social media content, than for themselves.

Here are a few tips from shutterbugs to keep in mind while choosing a photographer for your wedding:

Look beyond highlights

Says wedding photographer, Manvi Gandotra, "Social media is a highlight reel. While those few 'wow' shots are impressive, they don't always show the full picture. Ask to see at least two or three complete wedding albums. This will give you a better sense of their consistency - how they handle tricky lighting, how they capture emotional moments and whether they can tell the entire day's story beautifully from start to finish."

Rate the team

Understand the process of working. "Always ask the photographer about the recce of the locations proposed for the shoots. Else you will have the team setting up the shots at the venue and missing out on the candids. That makes you lose out on half the magic of a shaadi," says wedding photographer Parikshit Suri.

Break the ice

Invite the photographer to meet your family at home and understand the dynamics of the members who will compose the heartbeat of your big day. Build the chemistry, break the ice and initiate conversations. Share references of frames if you have a specific idea in mind to discuss its workability.

"It is a great idea to develop that level of comfort with the photographer since he or she will capture memorable moments for you and yours, forever," says Parikshit.

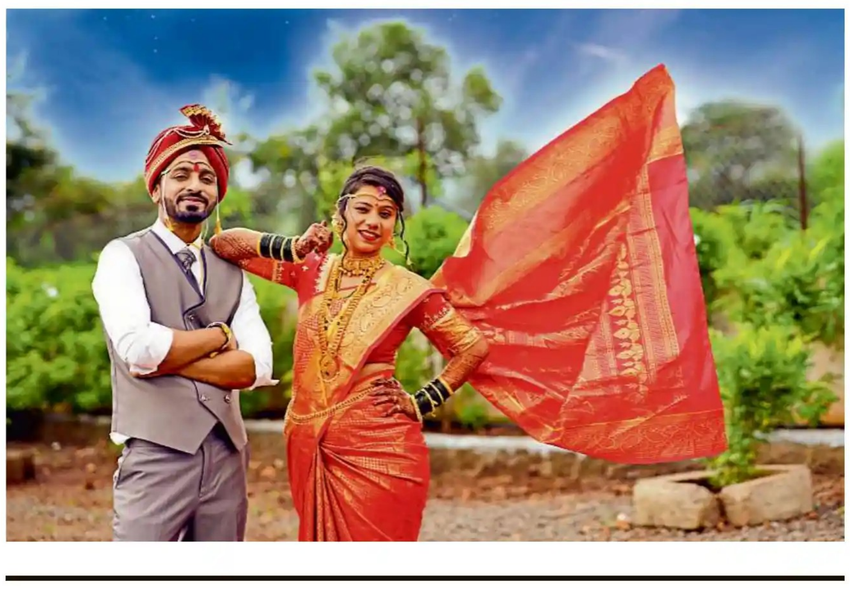
Sync in

"Photographers have distinct styles - some focus on candid, raw moments, others lean towards cinematic, editorial shots and some prefer a bright, airy aesthetic. Decide what resonates with you as a couple, then see if their work reflects that. Mismatched styles can lead to photos you appreciate but don't truly love," says Manvi.

Deal or no deal

"Digital works great but you do want a few portraits, black and whites and family photographs in addition to the printed albums that are created. Choose access to all finalised images on link, encourage all attendees to share the pictures they have clicked on their cameras and phones to create a pool of memorable images," says Parikshit.

Add to that a website with images uploaded for easy access.



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I **Suni Nambiar W/o. Santhosh Kumar Vadakayil R/o B-002, Keerthi Harmony Apts, Raghavendra Nagar, Horamavu Rd, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore -16 Declare that my name in Passport (No.N3788235) is mentioned as Suni Chenichery Nambiar. both Names Pertain to Me, Vide Affidavit Dt: 29-9-25 Sworn Before Notary Ms. B Chitra, Bangalore.**

I, AMIRITLAL SANDEEP_KUMAR R/a#2328 3rd`Main_Road, Hampinagar Vijayanagar, Bangalore North,Bangalore 560040 have`changed my`Name to SANDEEP_KUMAR vide`affidavit dated:3.10.2025 before`Notary Mamatha.N.K. Bangalore.

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